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page 15  
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Thursday January 4 1996

Algeria D 8.50	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Poland Z 5.70
Albania L 220	Hungary F 200	Portugal E 200
Andorra P 10	India IN 165	Qatar QR 18.50
Australia AS 20	Indonesia Rp 1,500	Romania LE 2,000
Bahrain BD 0.80	Iran R 9,800	Russia R 20.00
Belgium BF 50	Italy L 1,950	Saudi Arabia R 10
Bulgaria L 170	Jordan JD 1.00	Slovenia SIT 260
Canada CN 12.50	Kuwait KD 0.50	Slovakia SK 55
Cyprus C 1.00	Latvia L\$ 2	Slovenia SLT 260
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Denmark DK 16	Malaysia M\$ 2	Sweden S 16
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	Oman OR 1.00	

# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Inside the nation's shopping trolleys

## Supermarket wars

Guardian 2 with European weather

OnLine

## A game of cosmic ping-pong

G2 pages 10/13

Maradona confesses to cocaine addiction

## 'I am, was, and always will be a drug addict'



This section page 16

Dissident ordered to Caribbean island after pressure from arms firms

# UK bows to Saudis

## Fury as Arab refugee expelled

Soumas Mijne and Ian Black

**T**HE British government yesterday bowed to pressure from the Saudi regime, the United States government and British arms companies when it ordered the deportation of Saudi Arabia's most prominent dissident to a tiny Caribbean island, the Guardian has learned.

Mohammed al-Mas'ari, leader of the influential London-based Islamic opposition group, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, who last year applied for political asylum in Britain, has been given 10 days to appeal against his removal to Dominica, or report to Gatwick airport on January 18.

Mr Mas'ari, who escaped from Saudi Arabia via Yemen, was told by the Home Office that his application was being refused "without substantive consideration" and that Edison James, the prime minister of the former British colony of Dominica, has agreed to give him asylum. Earlier this year, a government attempt to deport the Saudi dissident back to Yemen was blocked by the Immigration Appeals Tribunal on the grounds that his life would be in danger there.

News of Mr Mas'ari's deportation order came on the day the Foreign Office announced that Andrew Green, currently in charge of Middle East policy in London, has been appointed British ambassador in Riyadh — reflecting the pivotal nature of the Saudi relationship.

The latest move to get rid of Mr Mas'ari was greeted with outrage by human rights and Middle East campaigners.

Lord Avebury, a Liberal Democrat peer and chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, said the expulsion was a breach of Britain's obligations under the UN Convention. He added that "highly improper" public criticism of Mr Mas'ari by the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, had seriously prejudiced the asylum seeker's case.

George Galloway, the Scottish Labour MP who has championed the Saudi opposition, last night wrote to the



Mohammed al-Mas'ari, vociferous critic of the Saudi regime, at home yesterday. He has 10 days to appeal against deportation. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Home Secretary, Michael Howard, saying his decision to deport Mr al-Mas'ari to an "Etha-type exile" was a "sordid act of obedience to the arms dealers in Britain and the dictators in Riyadh".

Under the Immigration Act, refugees can be deported to a safe third country if they did not come to Britain from the country where they risk persecution. But a Home Office spokeswoman said she was not aware of any precedent for the power being used in the way it is being deployed against Mr Mas'ari, who is expected to appeal.

Mr Mas'ari's removal would be an enormous relief

to the Foreign Office, which has found his presence in Britain an embarrassment in relations with Saudi Arabia, a key export market and political ally in the region.

In recent months the question of what to do with him has become an obsession for senior mandarins as British businessmen were repeatedly warned of sanctions by Saudi Arabia if action were not taken. King Fahd, until this week absolute ruler of Saudi Arabia, is understood to have personally demanded Mr Mas'ari's expulsion when Mr Rifkind was in Riyadh last November, and British-owned multinationals such as

Vickers and British Aerospace told the Government it must act or face a devastating toll in lost contracts.

Mr Mas'ari was imprisoned and tortured in Saudi Arabia before he came to Britain in April 1994. His anti-American organisation campaigns for an elected government and against corruption and the presence of foreign troops in the country. Despite its Islamist colour, it has also, for example, opposed the Saudi ban on women driving cars.

Every week the campaign faxes to Saudi Arabia hundreds of copies of a newsletter satirising corruption. A favourite item is "prince of

the month," which exposes the alleged misdeeds of a member of the royal family.

Saudi Arabia bought 21.5 billion worth of British goods in 1994 and is Britain's 18th largest export market. More crucial still is the £20 billion al-Yamamah arms-for-oil deal, signed by Margaret Thatcher in 1985, which involves the supply of British Aerospace Tornado aircraft and other defence equipment over about 20 years.

Last November, the Foreign Office denounced Mr Mas'ari when he expressed understanding of the motives of those who planted a bomb at a US installation in Riyadh.

"Such people are unwelcome in Britain," a spokesman said.

The Saudi Arabian government is understood to have been informed of the decision to expel Mr Mas'ari, which has been approved by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet's Overseas Policy and Defence Committee.

The Foreign Office made no official comment, but a source said: "Mas'ari has been an irritant in the relationship with Saudi Arabia. We have made no secret of our distaste at certain comments emanating from him and his ilk."

Each card, for example, must be filled in by hand, and it takes four seconds for the computer to register every five numbers.

At that rate it would take 40 retailers 16 hours to record every possible combination.

Another source estimated it would take 60,000 hours to fill in every card. If you started at 9am today, you would need 900 insomniac pals to complete the task by the time the lottery closed.

Continued on page 3, col 4

## Major 'must crush Tory rightwing'

Michael White and Rebecca Smithers

**T**ORY defector Alan Howarth today warns his old party that John Major's failure to deal with Michael Portillo as Edward Heath dealt with Enoch Powell will condemn the party to at least two general election defeats before it comes to its senses.

In a fresh incitement to rebellion on the Tory left, made in an article in today's Guardian, the MP for Stratford-on-Avon, who joined Labour two months before Emma Nicholson defected to the Liberal Democrats, predicts that the rightwing majority of Tory MPs who survive the coming election will defeat their One Nation colleagues in "the short and nasty struggle" to pick a new leader.

Mr Howarth argues that "only when Michael Portillo or John Redwood, or whoever the rightwing leader of the Tories is, has lost the election after next will it be brought home to the party that it has marginalised itself."

"The return to sanity and decency will begin then" — too late for One Nation Tories now at Westminster.

While Miss Nicholson said yesterday that only Kenneth Clarke's succession to the leadership would start the Tories on "the way back", Mr Howarth says it is too late. He contrasts Mr Major's "apostasy" of the right with Mr Heath's expulsion of Mr Powell from his shadow cabinet after the "rivers of blood" speech predicting racial mayhem in 1968.

Urging ex-colleagues to defect to the Labour Party, he says that the Conservative Party has "reached a point of confusion and aberration at which the judgment of its MPs who object deeply to rightwing zealotry must surely be that they should go beyond protesting. They have fought their corner bravely and doggedly from within,

but they have not been able to prevail. The time has come for one-nation Tory MPs to say they will no longer put up with the harshness, injustice, dogmatism and stupidity of the dominant right."

Although Mr Howarth urges more leftwing MPs to defect, rather than shore up Mr Major into 1997, he warns them that they will face ostracism from ex-colleagues — "the collective malice of a bitter party, amplified by the media" — as he and Miss Nicholson have done.

Some rightwing Tories, including Mr Redwood, are appalled at the harsh rhetoric of colleagues like Michael Heseltine and Mr Portillo since last week's defection. But yesterday the in-fighting which it triggered showed no signs of subsiding.

Temper were further inflamed by a pledge from left-leaning Tory MPs in the new Macleod Group to publish their own alternative policies shortly.

William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, warned fellow moderates that their alleged "manifesto" could undermine the party at a critical time.

As members of the 50-strong group of One Nation MPs played down the significance of their planned pamphlet by insisting it was not intended to be provocative, Mr Waldegrave said: "I don't think it is very sensible of people, in what might conceivably be an election year, to start challenging people in their own party."

"It's perfectly right to remember that the Conservative Party, or any party in this country which has a chance of winning an election, has got to be a broad church."

"Within that broad church you are going to have different views. Now, a party that is going to win, and a skillful party, is one that binds together differing views."

Will you join the dance? and Hugo Young, page 9

## Police chief urges pepper sprays

Owen Bowcott

**P**OLICE constables should be armed with CS gas or pepper sprays to foil knife attacks, the Chief Constable of the West Midlands police urged yesterday after assaults on four of his officers in one evening.

One of the injured constables, PC Vanessa Greening, aged 22, was still in hospital with a fractured skull last night after being confronted in a Birmingham suburb by six men armed with sledgehammers, an iron bar and knives.

Speaking at a press conference at force headquarters, Sir Ronald Hadfield warned: "My fear is that it will take the death of an officer before measures are taken to give my officers protection."

"The only answer in the



Vanessa Greening... skull fractured in iron bar attack

slow march towards arming all police is the introduction of some form of incapacitator such as CS gas or pepper, which is used in America."

In the unconnected incidents on Tuesday evening, officers in Birmingham were

faced with two gangs wielding knives. PC Greening and a colleague, PC Jon Jackson, had been responding to reports of a burglary in the King's Heath area.

PC Jackson was struck on the back of the head with a sledgehammer and later required six stitches for an arm wound. PC Greening was attacked as she went to his aid and was beaten around the head with an iron bar.

In the second incident, two officers were called to a flat in Edgbaston, where they confronted a gang assaulting the owner. At least four of the gang were armed with knives, including a seven-inch bowie blade.

Assaults on police officers are up 5 per cent on the previous year, Sir Ronald said. "We have here three incidents where my officers could have been killed very, very

## Jackpot fever conjures up unlikely tale of syndicate laying a £14m 'lousy bet'

Owen Bowcott

**D**ESPITE the improbability and security precautions, speculation grew yesterday that a 2,500-strong Australian syndicate was planning to win the record £33 million-plus triple rollover National Lottery jackpot this weekend.

However, the Heritage Department insisted only a lunatic would waste £13,983,916 on a "lousy bet" covering every possible permutation.

Reports of the plan sur-

facied in Australia and centred on Stefan Mandel, a Romanian-born mathematician whose syndicate won £18 million on the Virginia state lottery two years ago.

As the rumours gained credibility yesterday, attention focused on the logistical problems. Camelot, the lottery operator, produced mind-boggling figures designed to prove how steeply the odds are stacked against any syndicate.

Each card, for example, must be filled in by hand, and it takes four seconds for the computer to register every five numbers.

At that rate it would take 40 retailers 16 hours to record every possible combination.

Another source estimated it would take 60,000 hours to fill in every card. If you started at 9am today, you would need 900 insomniac pals to complete the task by the time the lottery closed.

Continued on page 3, col 4

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Washington sketch

Telling it like it is - in the audience



Jonathan Freedland

WHITNEY Houston is not a preacher, though she seemed like one. Each time she spoke, her audience cried out in response. "That's right," they chorused. Like a congregation at one of Washington's countless black churches. "Hm-hm, say it girl."

Except this was not a church, but a cinema. And Whitney Houston was not preaching, but on screen in the first smash hit of 1996: Waiting To Exhale, the movie version of a novel about four black professional women and their search for the right man. The overwhelmingly black audience at Washington's Union Station cinema was proof that, since opening as the number one film in America, Waiting is no longer a mere movie. It's a social phenomenon.

First night

Driven to despair in moral depravity

Michael Billington The Duchess of Malfi Wyndham's Theatre

YOU can go years without seeing Webster's The Duchess of Malfi. Then, suddenly, like Number 11 buses, they come along in pairs. But Declan Donnellan's Check By Jewel revival is infinitely darker and more disturbing than last year's Greenwich Theatre production, which also, by odd chance, ended up at Wyndham's.

PLO police arrest Arab liberties activist

Derek Brown in Ramallah THE dismal human rights record of the self-rule Palestinian Authority has reached a new nadir with the illegal detention of a distinguished civil liberties activist, Bassem Eid.

foreplay clinch, the auditorium erupted. "Hold on baby, I'm on my way," said the young on-screen lover, unable to contain himself. The rest of the scene was greeted by whoops, cheers and laughter. The men in the audience were conspicuously hushed.

Critics have attacked the film and the source novel for damning portrayals of black men, but the Washington crowd had no problem with the view that relationships with married men or crackheads are doomed. "We're all like that," said Cynthia. "This movie's opening a lot of people's eyes to their own lives."

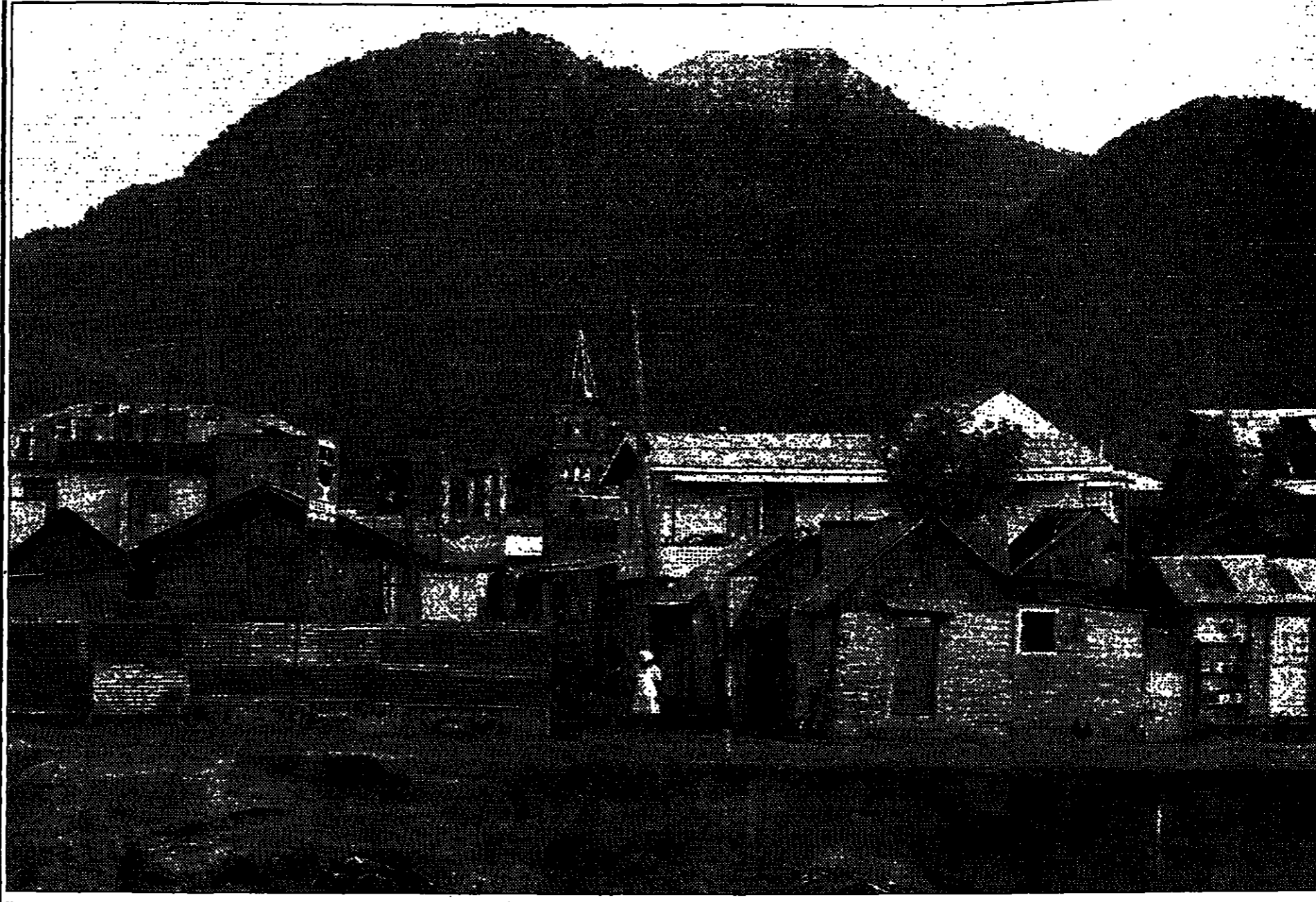
Coma girl recovering

Ecstasy taker out of intensive care unit, reports Vivek Chaudhary

DOCTORS treating a young woman who slipped into a coma after taking an ecstasy tablet at a New Year's Eve disco said yesterday that she is likely to make a full recovery. Helen Cousins, aged 19, was in a coma for two days, suffering a series of fits, and was breathing with the aid of a ventilator. She is now drifting in and out of consciousness, breathing on her own and has been transferred from the intensive care unit of Peterborough district hospital to a general ward.

Exile hits boardrooms where it hurts

Saudi irritation at the activities of a hi-tech dissident has sent frightening signals to British firms, reports Leslie Plommer



Roseau, the capital of Dominica, an island of 72,000 whose main export is bananas (below right). The tranquillity is shaken only by the odd hurricane

Exile hits boardrooms where it hurts

SAUDI irritation at the activities of a hi-tech dissident has sent frightening signals to British firms, reports Leslie Plommer

TOM WOLFE would have a fine time with Mohammed al-Mas'ari, the uncrowned king of Middle Eastern radical chic. For well over a year, Mr Mas'ari, aged 49, has used the unlikely venue of London NW10 to mail the Saudi regime with hi-tech guerrilla warfare, and in the process has made himself Saudi Arabia's best known dissident.

IN the eight months to August 1995, Britain sold 2960 million worth of exports to Saudi Arabia. The giant al-Yamamah armaments contract alone accounts for 70,000 British jobs.

At a time when Gulf contracts no longer come easily, the Mas'ari factor has frightened British industry badly and left what appears to be a strong asylum case in shreds. A talkative and often humorous former physicist, educated partly in the United States, Mr Mas'ari, aged 49, won his first British appeal against deportation earlier this year.

AN idyll it may seem, but Dominica will not placate its new guest. Edward Pilkington writes



THE Caribbean island, all 290 square miles of it between Martinique and Guadeloupe, boasts a thriving community of Catholics - about 85 per cent of its 72,000 population - and a smattering of Anglicans, Methodists and Pentecostals. But where are Mr Mas'ari's fellow Muslims?

Coma girl recovering

Ecstasy taker out of intensive care unit, reports Vivek Chaudhary

What it does: Stimulates the brain. Ecstasy in the bloodstream reaches the brain where it is believed to cause a massive release of certain messenger chemicals, particularly one known as 5HT or serotonin. 5HT is important in regulating mood, sleep, aggression, hunger and sexual activity.

The risks: Can promote a feeling of closeness, empathy and enhanced sensuality. It may also inhibit orgasms in both sexes.

the problems ecstasy can cause is that it affects the kidneys' ability to get rid of water," he added. Doctors believe that Leah Betts died from drinking too much water. An inquest into her death was opened and adjourned on November 22.

Advertisement for Nationwide mortgage. Features a dog and text: "be prudent", "get our one year mortgage rate of only 2.14%", "be extravagant", "buy a few things you don't really need". Includes phone number 0800 30 20 10.

Handwritten Arabic text: مكتبة الامم

**The Fleadh**  
Where: Finsbury Park, London  
Born: 1990  
Backer: Mean Fiddler  
Crowd: 30,000  
Image: Ireland comes to London

**Womad**  
Where: Rivermead Leisure Centre, Reading  
Born: 1992  
Backer: Womad, Reading  
Crowd: 17,000  
Image: World Music

**Reading**  
Where: Reading  
Born: 1970  
Backer: Mean Fiddler  
Crowd: 50,000  
Image: Muddy Rock

**Tribal Gathering**  
Where: Olinor Park, Oxford  
Born: 1995  
Backer: Universe, Mean Fiddler  
Crowd: 30,000  
Image: Techno rave

**Phoenix**  
Where: Stratford  
Born: 1992  
Backer: Mean Fiddler  
Crowd: 45,000  
Image: Poor man's Glastonbury

**Festivals of Britain**  
A guide to the other big music festivals

**Monsters of Rock**  
Where: Donnington Park, Banbury  
Born: 1980  
Backer: Midland Concert Promoters  
Crowd: 70,000  
Image: Heavy Rock

**T in the Park**  
Where: Strathclyde Cricket Park, Motherwell  
Born: 1984  
Backer: Tannis beer  
Crowd: 35,000  
Image: McEwan's

# Health plans anger GPs

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**D**OCTORS are to protest that the British Medical Association sent them promotional material for discount private health insurance at a time when it says it is battling to save the National Health Service.

Association members have received a letter on behalf of PPP Healthcare, a leading insurer, saying that as doctors say it is battling to save the NHS, it comes to healthcare needs.

The BMA defended its action, saying it has been involved in private schemes since before the NHS was created. But critics question the wisdom of the promotion at a time when the service's future is under fierce debate.

John Collee, a doctor who writes on medical matters for the Observer newspaper, said: "I think it is absolutely scandalous. Here we are, all furiously supporting the principles of the NHS, and yet here's the BMA inviting me to join PPP at reduced rates."

Sam Everington, an east London general practitioner and member of the BMA's ruling council, said he would raise the issue at next week's council meeting. "It's highly hypocritical to be supporting the NHS on the one hand and promoting private medicine on the other. The defence will be that there is no reason why BMA members should not have the choice, but it's quite a different thing to be sending this stuff out."

The letter, distributed last month, encourages doctors to subscribe to one of three plans drawn up by PPP for BMA members. One offers particularly cheap rates on the basis that doctors do not charge each other, or each other's families. It does not therefore cover specialist fees.

A BMA spokesman said the association had been party to similar schemes "since the year dot", although only a few of its 108,000 members took advantage. It was not opposed to private medicine, which did not damage the NHS in any way. "In the same way as any other professional organisation, all we are doing is offering cheaper rates on the basis of a group scheme."

PPP, formerly Private Patients Plan, was started in 1940 by the BMA and four medical royal colleges. The NHS was created in 1948.



The way it was... festival-goers entering into the spirit of Glastonbury last year

PHOTOGRAPH BY EAMONN MCCABE

# Glastonbury takes one-year break to regain hippy spirit

Geoffrey Gibbs and Alex Bellis

**G**LASTONBURY festival yesterday became a victim of its own mammoth success when its founder cancelled this year's event, saying it needed a rest to recapture its original hippy spirit.

Michael Eavis, the Somerset farmer who has seen the festival grow in 26 years to become the biggest rock music event in Europe, said: "We're having a fallow year, having a rest... it's good farming practice."

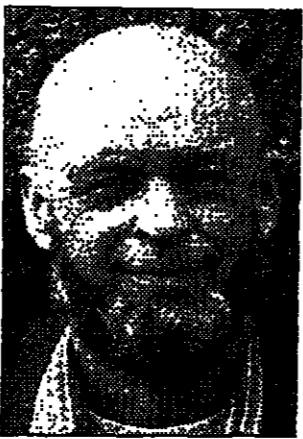
Mr Eavis, aged 60, denied the decision was linked to his recent selection as the Labour candidate for Tory-held Wells at the next general election. He added that the next festival would take place in June 1997.

The gaping hole in this year's pop calendar is music to the ears of the big-time promoters. Mean Fiddler, who have been relentlessly buying into the business and now control the four next highest-profile events, including Phoenix and Reading.

It will also be greeted with a measure of relief by locals near Mr Eavis's Worthy Farm, at Pilton, near Shepton Mallet, not all of whom welcome the invasion of tens of thousands of people for the three-day event.

Last summer's festival was the busiest so far, with all 80,000 tickets sold and at least another 20,000 people who scaled the perimeter fence.

The cream of Britpop, such as Oasis and Pulp, played, and there were acres of fields containing activities ranging



**'It's nice to be a bit magical and mystical. Really, we want to take the festival's profile back a little way'**

Michael Eavis, farmer and Glastonbury host

from stone masonry to meditation.

Its success showcased Glastonbury's reputation as one of the most vibrant and diverse festivals in the world.

Mr Eavis said: "It's become very high profile, and that's a bit of a problem. I won't say we're going back to our hippy roots, but it's nice to be a bit magical and mystical about it. We want to take the profile of the festival back a bit."

The break would give the farm and wildlife a chance to recover and provide an oppor-

tunity for those involved in the organisation to take stock.

"It will also be a break for the people who don't like it because they are pretty long suffering," he added.

Mr Eavis, a father of eight children from two marriages, is treated with almost as much devotion by festival-goers as the pop stars that perform. He is often seen driving around the site in his Land-Rover shaking people's hands.

Bald with a bushy beard, he may look like an eccentric, but has a shrewd business brain in running the £4 million festival as well as his organic farm, which produces 8,000 pints of milk a day.

He said there had been no pressure to cancel the festival from either the police or the local authority, and both bodies had sounded disappointed when he informed them. "Normally I get done for something, but 1995 was the first time in six years that I have not been prosecuted," he said.

"In recent times we have had years off in 1988 and 1991 following problems in the festivals of the preceding year. In 1988, the well-publicised event of the fence coming down led to some problems, and these will have to be resolved for future years."

Graham Jeffs, chief executive of Mendip district council, said the decision to suspend the 1996 event would enable the council and the organisers to give further consideration to ways of controlling the perennial problem of the numbers attending the festival.

Charities will lose out from the festival's cancellation, es-

pecially Greenpeace, which uses the festival as a showcase for its campaigns. It also got the lion's share of the £450,000 which Mr Eavis donated to charity last year.

Mr Eavis is not considered to have much of a chance in winning Wells. The previous Labour candidate came a poor third in 1992, polling just over 6,000 votes compared with almost 22,000 for the Liberal Democrats and 28,620 for the victorious Tory, David Heathcoat-Amory.

# Tycoon's death 'irrelevant'

Maxwell trial: Jury urged to look at media group's 'culture'

Ian King

**R**OBERT MAXWELL'S mysterious death at sea should be regarded as "accidental" and irrelevant to the innocence or guilt of his sons, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

Lord Justice Phillips, beginning his summing-up in the 118-day trial, told jurors that despite speculation that the media baron had committed suicide, the prosecution had offered no evidence for this, and no "adverse inference" could be drawn from it.

It would not be enough to decide that it was "more likely than not" that the three accused — Kevin and Ian Maxwell, and Larry Trachtenberg, financial adviser to the Maxwell empire — were guilty. Jurors had to be certain.

The three deny conspiring to defraud Maxwell pension funds by risking £22 million worth of shares in the Israeli pharmaceutical group, Teva, as collateral for Maxwell group loans. Kevin Maxwell alone denies conspiring with his father to defraud the pen-

sion fund, by misusing £100 million of shares in the Israeli printing group Scitex.

Judge Phillips told jurors that if they believed Robert Maxwell had not been guilty of conspiracy, they had to acquit Kevin on the Scitex charge, since it took two to make a conspiracy. If jurors acquitted Kevin on the Teva charge, they also had to acquit the others, since the Crown's case against Kevin was its "foundation stone".

The three defendants had been directors of Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM), the Maxwell group pension company responsible for administering the funds for pensioners' benefit. But the judge said taking commercial risks with pension fund assets was not dishonest in itself — the jury had to be certain the defendants had known what they were doing was dishonest.

He added: "If you put your money on an outsider at the Ascot races, you may be considered rash, but no one would suspect that you acted improperly and dishonestly. But if trustees risk pension fund assets by putting them on

horses at Ascot, you will all agree that pensioners whose pensions are being put at risk will have grounds for complaint.

Judge Phillips said jurors needed to consider the "culture" of the Maxwell empire, where assets were frequently transferred between the group's companies, and in which Robert Maxwell had frequently used the funds in effect as a "private merchant bank". He said they needed to weigh up whether the defendants were so "infected" with this culture that they "lost sight of the implications of their conduct". In doing so, jurors would need to consider Kevin Maxwell's character.

He went on: "I don't believe that any of you, having seen Mr Maxwell in the witness box for about 21 days, can have been left in any doubt about his very considerable ability."

Reminding jurors that Kevin Maxwell had admitted lying to officials from the Bank of Nova Scotia, the judge said the impression given by a witness was "not an infallible guide to truthfulness". But jurors should not conclude: "He's told lies, why should we believe a word he says? He must be guilty."

Judge Phillips continues summing up today.

# Lottery fever conjures up tale of £14m 'lousy bet'

Continued from page 1 on Saturday evening. Then you would need more people to place the tickets in time. To win the Virginia lottery, Mr Mandel's syndicate used 30 computers, 12 accountants and a paratrooper to oversee security.

While attempts have been made to buy every sequence on the Irish Lotto — which requires only five winning numbers out of 36 possibilities — the UK version was designed to have too many permutations.

"A £14 million outlay could guarantee a jackpot, but not an exclusive jackpot win," a Camelot spokeswoman said. One rollover prize last January produced 133 jackpot winners, who each won just £122,510.

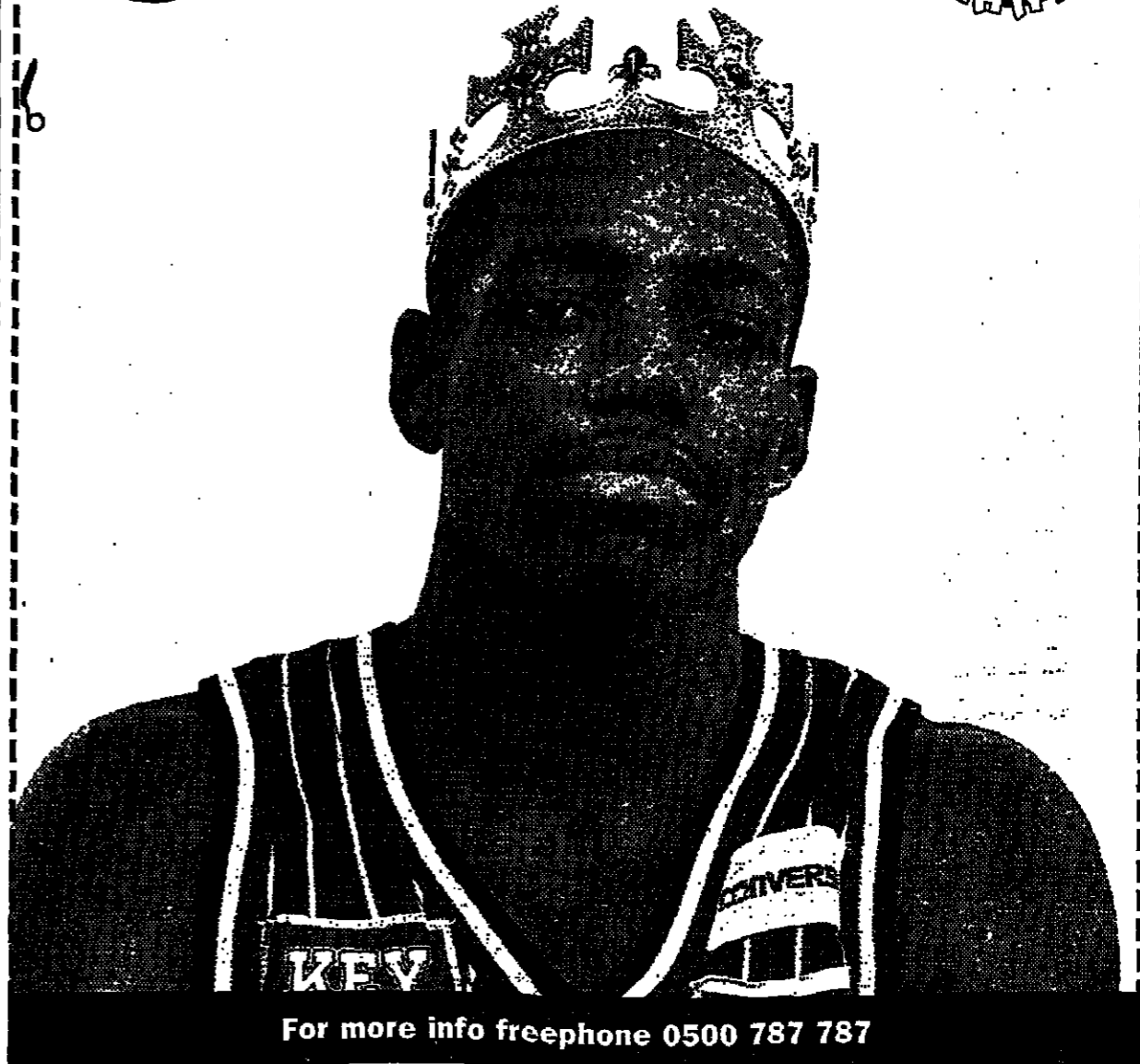
The lottery monitors sales patterns at all 26,000 outlets in the UK. Nothing suspicious has emerged. "If we noticed anything odd... we would stop it," the spokeswoman said. "Anyway, if the winning ticket is bought as part of an operation to cover every number, we are not liable to pay out." Some odds.

# Watch the Giants show the Royals who's king this Saturday.

The Manchester Giants v The Hemel Royals  
Saturday 6th January, 7.30pm at the Nynex Arena Manchester.

**PLUS:** Hand this ad over on game night and receive 30% off ALL the Giants merchandise purchased.

Superb slam dunkin' basketball action for all the family this Saturday. And it's GREAT value too with the special **FAMILY BONANZA TICKET**. Simply bring this ad with you and two adults and two kids get in for **ONLY £10.00**.



For more info freephone 0500 787 787

**Three Dublin contract-killer style assassinations in just one day prompted the government's justice minister, Nora Owen, to issue a statement in response to newspaper reports that the capital is "on the brink of mob war".**

David Sharrock

G2 page 4

With parts of Scotland and North-east still without water some firms are forced to shut down but Government rules out immediate cash aid

# Insurers face huge burst pipes bill

Martin Wainwright and David Ward

**B**RITAIN'S battered insurance market is facing the new burden of an estimated £500 million for damage caused by burst pipes and disrupted water supplies in the sudden new year thaw.

Continuing cut-offs in Scotland and the North-east threaten to push the cost of the chaos higher, with fish processing in Aberdeen, computer chip manufacturing in Strathclyde and small firms in Northumberland facing extended holidays or forced to suspend production.

The Government last night offered talks with local authorities on help for dealing with the clear-up, but ministers were cagey about

whether that would include substantial funding. Army tankers have been deployed to help supply parts of Scotland — working in tandem with loaned whisky lorries — and more than 30,000 people in the worst-affected areas are still without water after up to five days.

The Scottish Office minister, Raymond Robertson, offered emergency talks on a visit to Aberdeen, where fishing companies warned of "financial disaster" if the first market of the new year is unable to go ahead today. He agreed that financial help was "an issue which will have to be faced" but ruled out immediate talks on funds.

"We will discuss that, but the immediate priority is to get water supplies back to normal in homes, hospitals and industry."

Insurance offices in Scot-

**A**S THE row raged over the water companies' performance, it emerged last night that three of the directors of Northumbrian Water have received confirmation that they will share profits of over £1 million from their share options as a result of the successful French takeover bid for the firm, writes Michael White.

Lyonnaise des Eaux's takeover is set to add £567,000 to the expected remuneration package of £205,000 for Northumbrian's chief executive, David Cranston, in 1996. Labour revealed last night.

Analysis done for the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, suggests that J.M. Taylor, the group finance director, will gain £492,238 as a result of executive share options, now that the Trade Secretary, Ian Lang,

has nodded through Lyonaise's bid.

For an executive director, Jon Hargreaves, the deal will be worth £277,112 in share options on top of his salary and performance-related bonus of up to 30 per cent. Since remuneration committees are meant to take into account "any significant issue concerning unacceptable quality of service", Mr Brown's team

will raise their concerns in the Finance Bill later this month.

The bid became unconditional on December 28 when the French firm, which already owns North East Water, announced it had received acceptances for its offer to buy 60 per cent of Northumbrian's capital. That clinched the £1 million share option prospect.

and things aren't being put right as quickly as they should be."

But Ofwat denied that there had been significant manpower reductions in the industry and said that shortage of staff had not been a problem in tackling leaks.

People affected by cut-offs will receive compensation payments of £10 per 24 hours without supply from the companies, which will be required to make the payments from profits and not by increasing customer charges.

The biggest payouts are expected in Ashington and Newbeggan on the Northumberland coast, where Northumbrian Water said yesterday that it could not guarantee all reconnections before the weekend.

Pressure is also likely to remain reduced today on parts of Tyneside and Wear-

side. The multiple cracking of feeder pipes — with no arterial mains affected — has largely affected Victorian systems which put their faith in cast iron. Gradually being replaced by modern flexible plastic or ductile iron, the ancient pipes have been vulnerable to extreme changes of temperature.

The Water Services Association said that temperatures in the North-east had gone from -10C to 3C on Monday night, imposing huge strains on the pipes and causing fracturing earth movements. The freeze had already expanded the water and contracted the metal, leading to cracks at vulnerable junctions.

Ofwat said last night that the situation was improving rapidly, except in the North-east, where progress was slower.

man on water, Frank Dobson, that staff cutbacks had left the companies unable to tackle the crisis properly.

Mr Dobson said: "The water companies have been getting rid of staff, at all sorts of levels and in all sorts of jobs, and I think that means that in crises like this one when it's all hands to the pumps, there are fewer hands

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Mr Dobson said: "The water companies have been getting rid of staff, at all sorts of levels and in all sorts of jobs, and I think that means that in crises like this one when it's all hands to the pumps, there are fewer hands

## Four stabbed in JobCentre attack

Gary Younge

**A** WOMAN, armed with knives and screwdrivers, yesterday rampaged through a JobCentre in south-east London, stabbing four people in an apparently motiveless attack.

Police arrested a 27-year-old local woman at the centre in connection with the stabbings, which left two people seriously injured. She is being held in hospital where she is receiving treatment for hand and wrist injuries incurred during the incident. Police said there were no plans to either interview or charge her before today.

Police arrived at the scene in Bexleyheath shortly before 11am to find Simon Bridge, aged 24, with a large carving knife embedded in his head. Police said the blade had bounced off his skull and lodged in the scalp.

"It was sticking out at an angle. The man was calm but then he hadn't seen himself," said acting sergeant Ian Wheeler.

Mr Bridge, an unemployed

electrician, from Welling, south-east London, was taken to Queen Mary's hospital, Sidcup, where he was being kept overnight for observation.

His girlfriend, Tara Hill, aged 20, said after visiting him: "He told me he went to join the queue and a woman came from behind and attacked him."

"He said it didn't feel like someone was stabbing him in the head — more like someone punching him."

A 49-year-old man who worked in the Jobcentre was last night undergoing surgery for a "substantial" injury to his right arm.

Two women suffered minor head injuries — a 63-year-old member of staff was expected to be released from hospital yesterday evening while a member of the public, aged 34, was not detained after treatment.

A spokeswoman for Queen Mary's hospital said none of the injuries were thought to be life-threatening.

Witnesses said a woman wielding several weapons had first attacked members of the public, and then wandered through the building assault-

ing staff. "The second she got in people were running out. It was chaos. They were running out all over the street. The traffic was blocked," said Larry Hailimus, a shop owner.

Superintendent Philip Selwood, commander of the Bexleyheath area, did not know if the woman was targeting anyone in particular and would not comment on suggestions that she had been resident in a mental institution.

Detectives also refused to comment on witness claims that the attacker had visited the JobCentre the previous day trying to obtain a Giro payment, and said they had yet to establish a motive.

Witnesses said that as the emergency services arrived the woman screamed abuse but then stood passively while the police handcuffed her and smiled as she was driven away.

Acting sergeant Wheeler said: "The woman had several weapons. I have seen at least two knives and two screwdrivers and I understand there may be more. When I arrived there were lots of knives and lots of blood."



The JobCentre in Bexleyheath where a woman wielding knives attacked several people, leaving two seriously injured. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

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## Byelection battle commences

Prescott sets date for first of hoped-for poll victories

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

**L**ABOUR yesterday stepped up its pressure on John Major by announcing that it will hold a by-election in the safe Labour seat of Hemsworth in Yorkshire early next month.

The date was given by Labour's deputy leader, John Prescott, as he named its candidate for a second by-election, in Staffordshire South East, triggered by the death last month of the Conservative MP Sir David Lighthown.

Conservative sources said yesterday that the party planned to hold the by-election towards the end of March.

A clearer timetable for the two by-elections — which Labour intends to use further to undermine the Government in the wake of the defection of Emma Nicholson — could well galvanise the divided Conservatives and rally behind their leader.

Mr Prescott confirmed that Labour's Staffordshire candidate was Brian Jenkins, the 53-year-old leader of Tamworth borough council. He

fought the seat in the 1992 election and moved Labour from third to second place. Mr Jenkins, son of a coal miner, declared that he was "delighted and proud to fight for Labour".

Hemsworth was held for Labour by Derek Enright with a 22,075 majority until his death last November. As well as retaining this seat, Labour is expecting to overturn Sir David Lighthown's 7,192 majority in Staffordshire, shrinking the Government's majority to one.

However, Mr Prescott insisted that Labour was not complacent. "At no time can we just rely on the unpopularity of the Tories," he said during a visit to party officials in Tamworth. "We must convince people that Labour offers a better future for them and their families."

Overseeing the Staffordshire campaign will be Labour leader Tony Blair's parliamentary private secretary, Bruce Grocott, MP for Wrexham, and Peter Snape (West Bromwich East), chairman of the West Midlands group of Labour MPs.

If the Tories lose the Staffordshire seat, they lose Tamworth. Now a sprawling outpost of Birmingham, Tamworth is the town that spawned the modern Conservative Party more than 150 years ago when Sir Robert Peel delivered his famous Tamworth manifesto.

Labour holds fire on Scargill despite calls for his expulsion

Michael White Political Editor

**L**ABOUR last night adopted a wait-and-see attitude towards Arthur Scargill's threatened left-wing breakaway, after it emerged that his new party's draft constitution would effectively exclude many potential allies on the left.

Reports that the constitution of the Socialist Labour Party will enjoin members not to "join or support" other political groupings surprised some leftwingers and drew derision from mainstream supporters of Tony Blair's New Labour modernisation.

Mr Blair's deputy, John Prescott, said Mr Scargill's efforts were "a lot of huffing and puffing".

But Labour officials refused to be stamped by calls to expel Mr Scargill, National Union of Mineworkers' leader, for breaching a fundamental organisational rule — enforced against Militant in the 1980s — that members

of parties within Labour, or of avowed parties which fight elections against it, should be kicked out.

"People are entitled to be involved in talks," a senior official observed, while confirming that if Mr Scargill and his allies went ahead with the SLP launch in May he would effectively "count himself out".

Labour MPs like David Winnick, whose local socialist group in Walsall was recently expelled, have called for Mr Scargill's expulsion. Yesterday such frustration was echoed by Kim Howells, MP for Pontypool, a former NUM official and opponent of Mr Scargill over the 1994/95 miners' strike.

But Campaign Group MP Alice Mahon voiced the regrets of other leftwing MPs that he intends to leave. "I think there is only one party for socialists and that's the Labour Party," she said on BBC Radio 4's World at One.

On the same programme, Mr Howells called Mr Scargill a megalomaniac who should be expelled if his party goes ahead. He predicted it would boost Labour by becoming "a magnet for all sorts of nutters".

Yesterday's reports describe a constitution which includes Labour's abandoned Clause 4 on common ownership.

## Royal Opera move in jeopardy

Michael Ellison Arts Correspondent

**S**OME of the world's leading opera singers were feeling the effects of at least one of life's most stressful experiences last night when their attempt to move house fell through.

First the Royal Opera House decided to decamp temporarily from its Covent Garden home for redevelopment work, for which it has received a £55 million lottery grant. The company decided to move to a £27 million theatre to be built south of Tower Bridge for two seasons from September 1997.

Yesterday Greater London

Enterprise, which heads the theatre, said it had failed to find a second partner in time to build at Tower Bridge and meet the opera house's deadline.

"There must be a chance that the theatre won't be built at all now, but we still anticipate that the thing will go forward," said Martin Large, joint managing director of GLE properties.

It had been hoped that Disney would take over the theatre when the opera house returned to Covent Garden at the turn of the century, but it has turned it down.

"The opera house will have to find something else for a relatively short period of

time, perhaps three months, to cover for the delay or find somewhere else for the whole period," Mr Large said.

The GLE was talking to several other potential tenants in the fields of commerce and entertainment.

Keith Cooper, the opera house's director of corporate affairs, said: "We don't feel so much let down as realistic. The GLE appeared to be very optimistic about the possibility of finding a second tenant but we have a rigid timetable which will involve us in considerable cost if there is a delay."

"If you take a product out of the market place for even a short time it's bloody difficult to re-establish yourself, and

you incur incredibly high redundancy and start-up costs."

The opera house was looking at touring and the possibility of performing in a number of London venues, such as the Albert Hall, the Royal Festival Hall and Sadler's Wells, if a single base could not be found.

The only London theatre available from September 1997 was the Dominion. "But only one of the productions in our current repertoire would fit on its stage, the auditorium is inadequate and so are the sight-lines," said Mr Cooper.

"It's all right for a West End show but it's not great for opera."

150 من الاجل

Country ranks 35th in education table among developed states

# Plan to lift UK from place as 'dunce of the world'

Donald MacLeod  
Education Correspondent

**A** 10-YEAR plan to lift Britain from its place as the dunce of the developed world was outlined yesterday by the Government's former senior education adviser.

Sir Geoffrey Holland, former permanent secretary at the Department for Education, proposed a £1 billion programme to raise achievement over the next 10 years. He said Britain had slipped from 14th to 18th in a league of global competitiveness because of the quality of the work force and the inadequate education system.

In terms of skill the work force had slipped from 21st to 24th, while in education the UK was ranked 35th in the world despite spending more than many competitors, he told the North of England education conference in Gateshead.

Sir Geoffrey, vice-chancellor of Exeter university, told local authorities they would have to improve achievement in schools and colleges by 30 per cent with few extra resources.

**'We are not well equipped for the 21st century, where survival depends on applied intelligence. It is time for a national crusade to raise achievement'**

With two-thirds of public spending going to social security, education was fighting for scraps from the table. "The central fact of life is that there will not be great additional resources for education available from the public purse."

Despite £27 billion spent on education and £35 billion spent on training by employers, Britain was slipping behind the competition. "We are hurting now towards a 21st century in which the jobs available will be jobs that robots cannot do and where our survival, both economically and socially, depends on applied intelligence, enterprise, initiative, flexibility and ability to survive rapid change."

"We are not well equipped and it is time for a national crusade to raise achievement all round," Sir Geoffrey said.

He said A levels should be scrapped as no longer relevant. Vocational and academic qualifications should be amalgamated and taken whenever candidates reached a certain standard rather than at a certain age, to get rid of the stigma of failure.

He urged schools and local authorities to dismiss bad teachers and tackle the 30 per cent of lessons found to be unsatisfactory by inspectors over many years. "We should expect more of teachers, pay them better, value them more highly in terms of status... but simply not be willing to tolerate poor performance."

In turn, teachers, heads and governors should be freed from the deluge of paperwork. "We are drowning in paperwork and over-regulation. We need a crusade, from government and quangos downwards, to cut administration

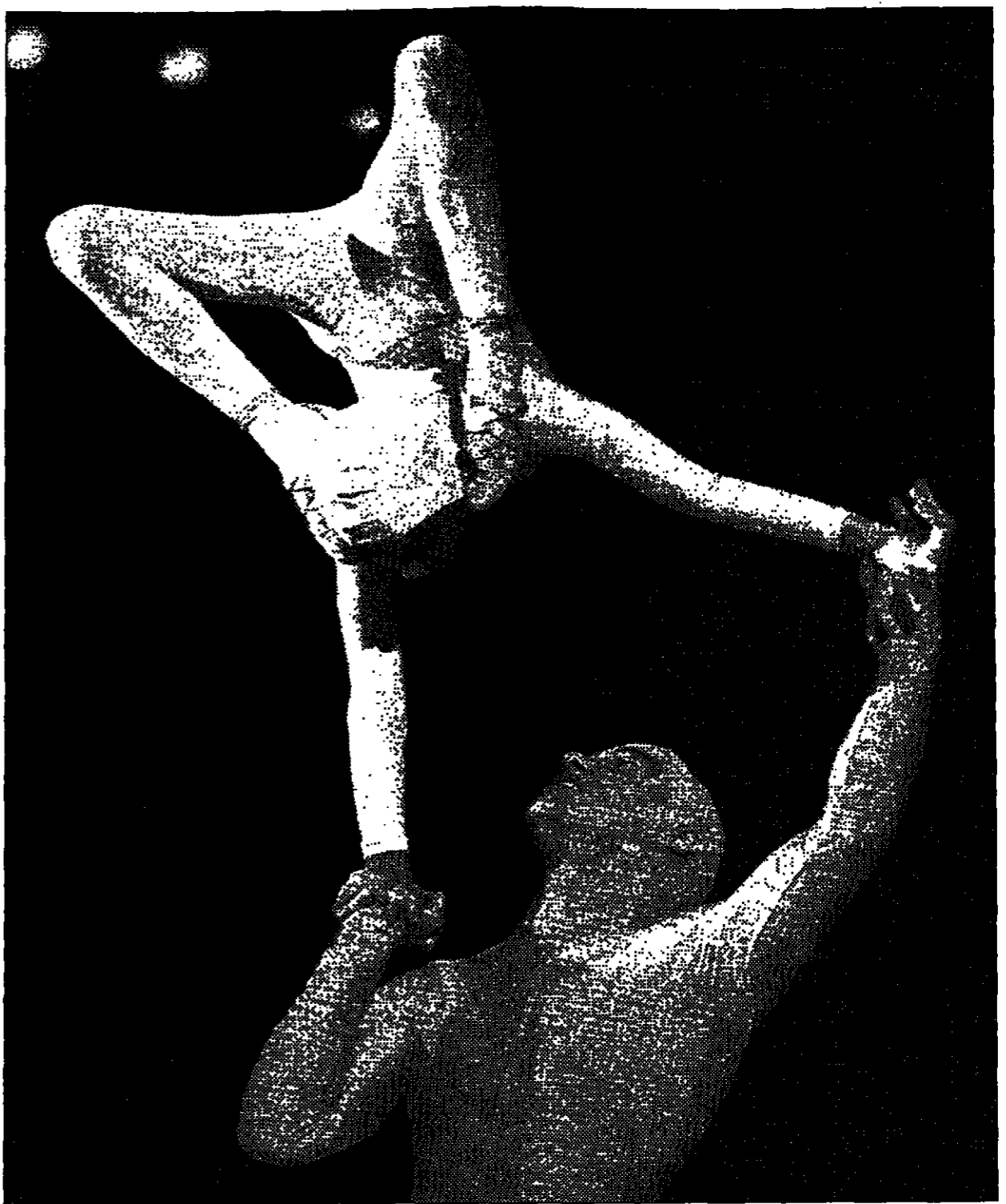
paperwork by 50 per cent."

Sir Geoffrey said there was a consensus on education in the country and among politicians, although it was obscured by pre-election rhetoric. "This is the moment for us all to come together in a big push. If we don't do it in the next 10 years time will have run out," he said.

His proposal to "unhook" qualifications from age-related dates and allow students to achieve given standards at their own pace is likely to prove controversial. So is his suggestion that a graduate tax be used to fund all university and further education students to release more money for inner-city schools and nurseries.

David Blunkett plans today to steal a march on the Government by putting information technology at the heart of Labour's plans for improving standards in schools, writes John Carvel.

In his first contribution to the party's 1996 education standards "crusade", he will tell the Gateshead conference that access to computers could revolutionise teaching of languages and help motivate under-achieving boys in the inner cities.



Air and graceful... Performers of the Cirque du Soleil, which opens its show Saltimbanco at the Royal Albert Hall tomorrow with its blend of performance art, theatre, circus and hi-tech arena rock and roll. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ANGLIS

## Shephard 'heading far to right of Patten' on pupil selection

John Carvel  
Education Editor

**L**ABOUR yesterday accused Gillian Shephard, Education and Employment Secretary, of lurching far to the right of her predecessor, John Patten, in advancing proposals to allow state schools to select pupils by interviewing parents and children.

"Parents will no longer choose their school; instead, schools will pick the parents and pupils," said David Blunkett, shadow education secretary. "This abandonment of parental choice is a last desperate lurch to the right in a bid by Mrs Shephard to save face for the Prime Minister."

He was responding to the Guardian's disclosure that Mrs Shephard was preparing to publish a consultation paper next week proposing to



David Blunkett... Minister 'trying to save face for PM'

lift the ban that prevents comprehensive schools from screening their intake to weed out undesirable pupils. Mr Blunkett said opposition by the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches was forcing Mrs Shephard to scrap Mr Patten's plan to allow church schools to opt for grant-maintained status without a parental ballot.

Lack of interest among banks and building societies had obliged her to postpone plans to privatise student loans.

"Now Gillian Shephard is even abandoning John Patten's guidelines on admissions to salvage something of the Prime Minister's inept Birmingham speech."

Mr Major told grant-maintained school heads at Birmingham in September that they needed greater freedom on admissions policy "to make sensible choices between pupils in the way you think best".

Mrs Shephard's proposal would allow all state schools to use reports or interviews as part of their formal admis-

sion procedures, although in practice the selective approach is likely to be taken up mainly by the 1,100 grant-maintained schools.

Although Mr Patten was considered right wing on educational theories, he warned schools in 1992 against using interviews to screen admissions, lest they be "vulnerable to criticism that judgments about a child's suitability were based on social, ethnic or academic considerations."

Schools were finding it harder to persuade parents to pay for essential books and equipment and not just optional extras, the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations said yesterday. Some parents had been asked to contribute to teachers' salaries to avoid staff cuts during last year's squeeze on budgets.

Leader comment, page 8

## 'Peg libel awards to injury payouts'

John Ezard

**M**OVES were announced yesterday aimed at reforming a legal system in which a millionaire pop star can receive £250,000 damages for remarks about his diet while an accident victim gets £22,500 for the trauma of losing an eye.

The Law Commission accepted that compensation paid for the suffering caused by serious personal injuries had fallen behind inflation and should be increased.

It recommended that judges should urge libel juries to use these payments as a guideline, and suggested a £125,000 limit on defamation awards, close to the ceiling for personal injury awards.

In a consultation paper, it said: "A libel plaintiff may recover a much larger sum for an injury to his reputation — which may prove transient — than the damages awarded for the pain and suffering to the victim of an industrial accident who has lost an eye."

"We accept the force of [public] criticism that it is wrong for the law to appear to

### Damages

**LOSS of one eye (minimum recommended compensation):** 1960s, £2,750; 1994 (with inflation), £25,394; 1994 (actual), £22,500

**Loss of taste and smell:** 1960s, around £2,000; 1994 (with inflation), £18,293; 1994 (actual), £16,000

**Loss of main hand:** 1960s, £2,500; 1994 (with inflation), £23,000-£25,000; 1994 (actual), £25,493

**Leg injury reducing mobility:** 1960s, £3,000; 1994 (with inflation), £30,188;

1994 (actual), £22,500-£32,500

**Paraplegia:** 1978, £35,000; 1994 (with inflation), £104,165; 1994 (actual), £95,000

**Quadriplegia:** 1985, £75,000; 1994 (with inflation), £114,502; 1994 (actual), £105,000-£125,000

**Very severe brain injury:** 1961, £15,000; 1994 (with inflation), £171,833; 1994 (actual), £105,000-£125,000

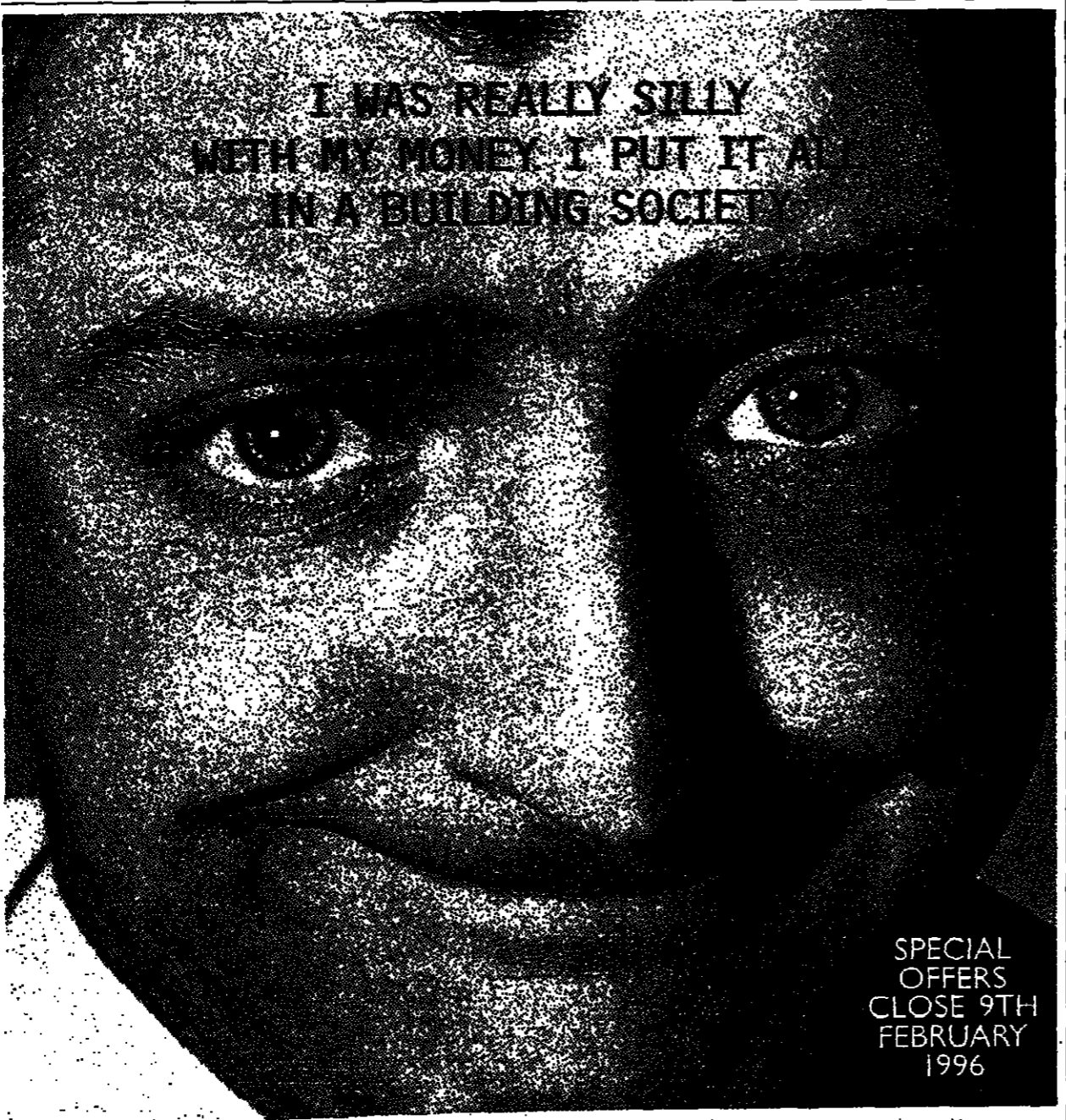
**Racial discrimination awards:** £30,000 for being called an "Irish prat"; £15,000 for being called "an idle black bastard"

Libel jury awards: 1989, £1.5m for Lord Aldington against Count Nikolai Tolstoy and his publisher; 1991, £250,000 for Esther Rantzen against Mirror Group... Newspapers (reduced to £110,000 on appeal); 1994, £1.4m for a yacht firm against Yachting World (settled for £760,000 after appeal); 1995, £750,000 for Graham Soumess against Mirror Group Newspapers (settled for £100,000 after appeal); December 1995, appeal court reduced Elton John's £350,000 Sunday Mirror damages to £75,000 after comparison with personal injury damages — anticipating the commission's recommendation.

cials expect this judgment to be treated as a precedent.

The highest personal injury award for non-financial loss is £130,000 to a brain-damaged woman who has lost the ability to walk, cry, laugh or speak but is fully conscious and aware of her situation.

The Government set up the Law Commission 30 years ago to recommend legal reforms.



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## Jobs shake-up in Whitehall

Richard Norton-Taylor and Ian Black

**B**ITAIN'S key intelligence co-ordinating job is to go to the chief policy adviser to Sir Leon Brittan, the UK's senior European Commissioner, in a wide-ranging shake-up of Whitehall posts.

Colin Budd, a career diplomat, is to return from Brussels to replace Paul Lever as chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee. Mr Lever becomes economic director at the Foreign Office with special responsibility for Britain's relations with its European Union partners.

Mr Budd, aged 50, served in the British embassy in Bonn before moving to Brussels as *chef de cabinet* to Sir Leon in 1993. He will also have responsibilities in the running of the Cabinet's important overseas and defence policy committee.

The intelligence committee assesses raw intelligence and sets priorities for the Secret Intelligence Service, better known as MI6, and for GCHQ, the Government's electronic eavesdropping centre.

Mr Lever, respected by ministers for his hard-headed approach to difficult problems, will be responsible for drawing up options and negotiating tactics as the Government prepares to face federalist demands from EU partners in the run-up to the inter-governmental conference later this year.

He replaces Michael Jay, who is to be appointed ambassador to Paris, another key post in the EU context. Christopher Meyer, a German-speaking career diplomat who is currently John Major's chief press spokesman, is widely tipped to become ambassador in Bonn.

Meanwhile, Roderic Lyne, a private secretary in Downing Street, who played a key role in negotiations with Dublin over the Irish peace talks, is leaving to take up a job with British Gas.

He will be succeeded by John Holmes, another Foreign Office official.

The moves, some of which are expected to be officially announced next week, leave a question mark over the future of Pauline Neville-Jones, made a Dame in the new year's honours list.

She is to be replaced as the Foreign Office's political director by Jeremy Greenstock, her deputy.

Dame Pauline, aged 56, who was Britain's representative on the now defunct Bosnia contact group, had hoped to be given the Paris embassy.

David Gore-Booth has been appointed British High Commissioner to India in succession to Sir Nicholas Fenn, who is retiring from the Diplomatic Service, the Foreign Office announced yesterday.

Mr Gore-Booth, British ambassador to Saudi Arabia, is being replaced in Riyadh by Andrew Green, currently in charge of Middle East policy in London.

## Dog attack boy dies of injuries

David Ward

**A**N 11-YEAR-OLD boy who was mauled by two rottweiler dogs on Christmas Eve died in hospital yesterday.

David Kearney, from Darwen, Lancashire, had been on a life support system at Booth Hall children's hospital in Manchester, after surgery on his face and having part of his left leg amputated.

David's parents, Keith and Margaret Kearney, spent Christmas at his bedside. A family friend said: "They knew how badly he was injured but they had been hoping he would pull through. Everyone is terribly upset."

Mr Kearney said that, after discussions with doctors, he and his wife had decided to switch off the life support machine. "We have lost our son and we now just want to be left alone to grieve."

In addition to needing extensive surgery, David had also been receiving kidney dialysis and had been fighting the threat of pneumonia.

The boy had climbed over a fence near his home into the yard where the dogs were kept. His sister, Amanda, aged 14, said: "One of the dogs came over. He tried to make friends with it but it went for his shoulder and head."

His mother said afterwards that his face was blown up like a balloon, and he was badly marked she hardly recognised him.

The dogs' owner, Kevin Taylor, a builder, asked for them to be destroyed.

"They are not guard dogs trained to attack people," he said. "They are pets but they are also here to look after my house."

Police have questioned Mr Turner and a report has been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service.

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# Christians bear another cross

Converted untouchables are claiming the same special rights as other disadvantaged Indians, writes **Suzanne Goldenberg** in New Delhi

**W**ITH competition fierce for university places and government jobs, Indian Church leaders are demanding special treatment for their congregations, on the grounds that they face discrimination. Positive discrimination, known as "reservation" in India, is a highly emotive issue in India, where liberalisation has intensified the struggle for economic survival. It promises to be central to the next general election, expected in April. Muslims — and now Christians — clam-

ouring for the rights the constitution gives to disadvantaged Hindus. More than 40 years ago the constitution set aside a proportion of university places and civil service jobs for Dalit (formerly untouchable) Hindus and tribal peoples. The reservation system originally applied only to Hindus but under pressure from other communities the government has extended it to Buddhists and Sikhs of Dalit origin. In the past 10 years it has come to include other lower caste Hindus besides Dalits. State governments in the south now allocate more

than 80 per cent of government jobs by quota. The Churches began demanding their share in November with a two-week campaign unsuccessfully calling on parliament to consider the plight of Dalit converts to Christianity. "We are in a society, we cannot escape society," said Father Devadas, director of social work at New Delhi's Sacred Heart Cathedral. "The Church cannot play a big role in economic development. We are a secular state, and it's the government's job." The Church argues that even though Dalits embraced

Christianity many years ago, they have not been able to escape caste prejudice, so they should be entitled to the same benefits as Dalit converts to Buddhism and Sikhism and all disadvantaged Hindus. Leaders of the affirmative action protest will meet this month to decide whether to issue a call from the pulpits in favour of a specific party at the elections. Meanwhile a black flag has been flying over the Sacred Heart high above the heads of the little girls dressed like wedding cakes and the street vendors who normally crowd Delhi's churches at this time of year. "For 45 years we waited, we tolerated. But now the Dalit Christians themselves are taking up the leadership. I don't think we can resist this," said Father Charles De

Souza, the leader of Delhi's 85,000 Roman Catholics. In a Christmas message, the interdenominational group campaigning for the Dalit Christians said: "The Christians of India had expected a happier Christmas. They trusted in the parliamentary democracy and placed their faith in the words of honourable men like the prime minister of India and hoped that a bill to right the 45-year-old wrong of denying the Christians of Scheduled Caste [Dalit] origin their constitutional rights will be introduced. However, the message seems to be... their voice won't be heard." Dalit Christians received a further setback when Mother Teresa, who had appeared at the launch of their campaign, withdrew her support after being criticised by the right-

wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party. The ruling Congress (I) party, although it is the traditional repository of the minority vote, is wary of endorsing the Dalit Christian demand for fear of alienating Hindu voters. But a regional party has already promised to extend the quota system to Muslims, who are economically worse off than the Hindu majority. Although the Catholic Church is fighting for the 16 per cent of its congregation who are Dalits or descendants of Dalits, it has not yet erased caste discrimination in its own house. Some churches, in the south especially, still seat Dalits in separate pews, and have segregated cemeteries. There are few Dalits in the upper ranks of the hierarchy.

## News in brief

### Dini faces threat from Italian right

THE Italian right yesterday undertook to press for the fall of Lamberto Dini's non-party "government of experts", but stopped short of moving a motion of no confidence. Parliamentary party leaders decided that a debate on the country's political future, called for by President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, should begin next Tuesday. It is likely to take up to three days. With Italy occupying the presidency of the European Union, the proceedings will be watched with keen interest in Brussels. The chances of Mr Dini's unelected administration surviving next week's debate receded last night when two leftwing parties, Communist Refoundation and the Greens, called for its removal. If they were to vote with a united right, they could bring down the government. — *John Hooper, Rome.*

### Black Watch-Triad link denied

THE British Forces Hong Kong Garrison yesterday denied that investigations are under way into links between soldiers serving in the Black Watch Regiment and organised crime syndicates. "No soldiers from that regiment have been brought back to Hong Kong for interview in connection with that or any other investigation. No certificate of immunity from prosecution has been issued to any member of the Black Watch by the police, who have no right to do so. We have today confirmed that the Director of Public Prosecutions, who does have this power, has also not issued any such certificate of immunity," a statement said.

### Drug baron 'is co-operating'

THE world's most wanted heroin trafficker, Khun Sa, is co-operating with Burmese government forces occupying his former headquarters near the border with Thailand, hardening suspicions he has cut a deal with Rangoon's ruling generals to let him go into retirement. Khun Sa was reported by sources linked to his Mong Tai Army yesterday to have remained in Homong supervising the handover of weapons to government troops. "The traitor is being well protected by Burmese troops after persuading us to surrender to them," one former MTA officer commented. The Burmese government and state-run media have made no mention of an event Rangoon residents expected them to trumpet as a victory. — *Nick Cumming-Bruce, Bangkok.*

### Perry offers kidnap help

THE United States defence secretary, William Perry, gave a guarded promise yesterday of Nato help in the peace crisis posed by the Bosnian Serbs' seizure of 16 Muslims travelling through Serb areas of Sarajevo. After meeting the Bosnian president, Alija Izetbegovic, and commanders of the Nato-led implementation force (IFOR) in Sarajevo, Mr Perry said it was important that the proposed United Nations-controlled police force should be established "as soon as possible", adding: "In the meantime, Nato's force will do what it can to assist." Mr Perry had earlier told reporters it was not Nato's job to be a police force, implying that the incident was seen as a criminal rather than a military matter. The Bosnian Serb authorities refused to release the 16 and told Nato that some of them might be tried. Meanwhile, two British soldiers were injured when they stumbled on a landmine or an unexploded shell in Sarajevo yesterday, an I-FOR spokesman said. — *Reuter, Sarajevo.*



Hostile elements... Russians struggle in severe weather to burn off and clean up a 1,000-tonne oil spill from a river-bed pipeline in the central republic of Yashkiriya

### Agency banned 'for criticism'

The charity Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders), one of 43 aid agencies expelled from Rwanda, said yesterday that its French wing was thrown out for reporting atrocities committed by the authorities. MSF's president, Philippe Biherson, told a news conference that the "real reason was... our testimony on the serious attacks affecting the people we were working with". The Rwandan government ordered the foreign aid agencies out of the country last month on grounds they had failed to register and said they had to leave their equipment behind. Police confiscated 16 of their ambulances and other vehicles. Mr Biherson said MSF's French wing had been working with Hutu refugees. "Not a day went by without our hearing testimony about people disappearing, being assassinated, or being forced to leave the country again in fear for their lives and those of their families." — *Reuter, Paris.*

### Ploughman's hunch

FLOUGHING at night can dramatically reduce the number of weeds competing with farm crops, a US government study said. "We have seen reductions in weed emergence as great as 80 per cent" after ploughing in the dark, said Douglas Bahler of the agricultural department's Agricultural Research Service. "Generally reductions are 50 to 60 per cent." Initial results are confirmed, nighttime ploughing "has the potential to reduce reliance on chemicals in weed management," Mr Bahler told Agricultural Research magazine. The theory is simple enough: light penetrates the soil as it is being turned, allowing buried weed seeds to break out of dormancy. With some types of weeds, denying light at the time of ploughing reduces sprouting. — *AP, Washington.*

## US embassies feel the pinch

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE United States budget crisis escalated from a national to an international emergency yesterday, as Day 19 of the partial government shutdown prompted US officials abroad to deny that America had become a banana republic, unable to pay its bills.

As President Clinton and Republican congressional leaders began yet another round of talks, their failure to agree on a budget plan threatened key operations abroad as well as essential services at home.

The state department reported near-chaos as cash-starved embassies around the world were forced to scale back their activities.

Vietnam has threatened to cut off electricity to the US embassy in Hanoi because of an unpaid bill for \$1,600 (\$1,000). US diplomats in Moscow have dipped into a charity fund to pay local workers, and embassy officials in Havana are without drinking water — after the local supply company cancelled all deliveries until it is paid.

"We just don't have any cash," said Richard Moose, an undersecretary at the state department — one of nine government departments which have still not had their 1996 budgets approved.

The affected government agencies have had to get by with no money and skeleton staffing. More than 200,000 federal workers have been sent home without pay, while 500,000 more have been required to work for free.

Resentment at home has boiled over, with vital services, including environmental clean-up teams and benefits offices, suspended. But overseas the shutdown has created huge embarrassment.

At the American embassy in Paris, usually a social whirl, the unprecedented

shutdown has forced the cancellation of all entertainment. Ambassador and former Washington *grande dame* Pamela Harriman has even been barred from travelling to routine ceremonies.

Similar belt-tightening has been imposed at the US embassy in London, with a pay and expenses freeze in force. House Republicans yesterday refused to back a Senate move to release temporary funds to reopen the federal government while talks continue. Radical House members said they wanted to "stay the course" and use the shutdown as a source of pressure on Mr Clinton.

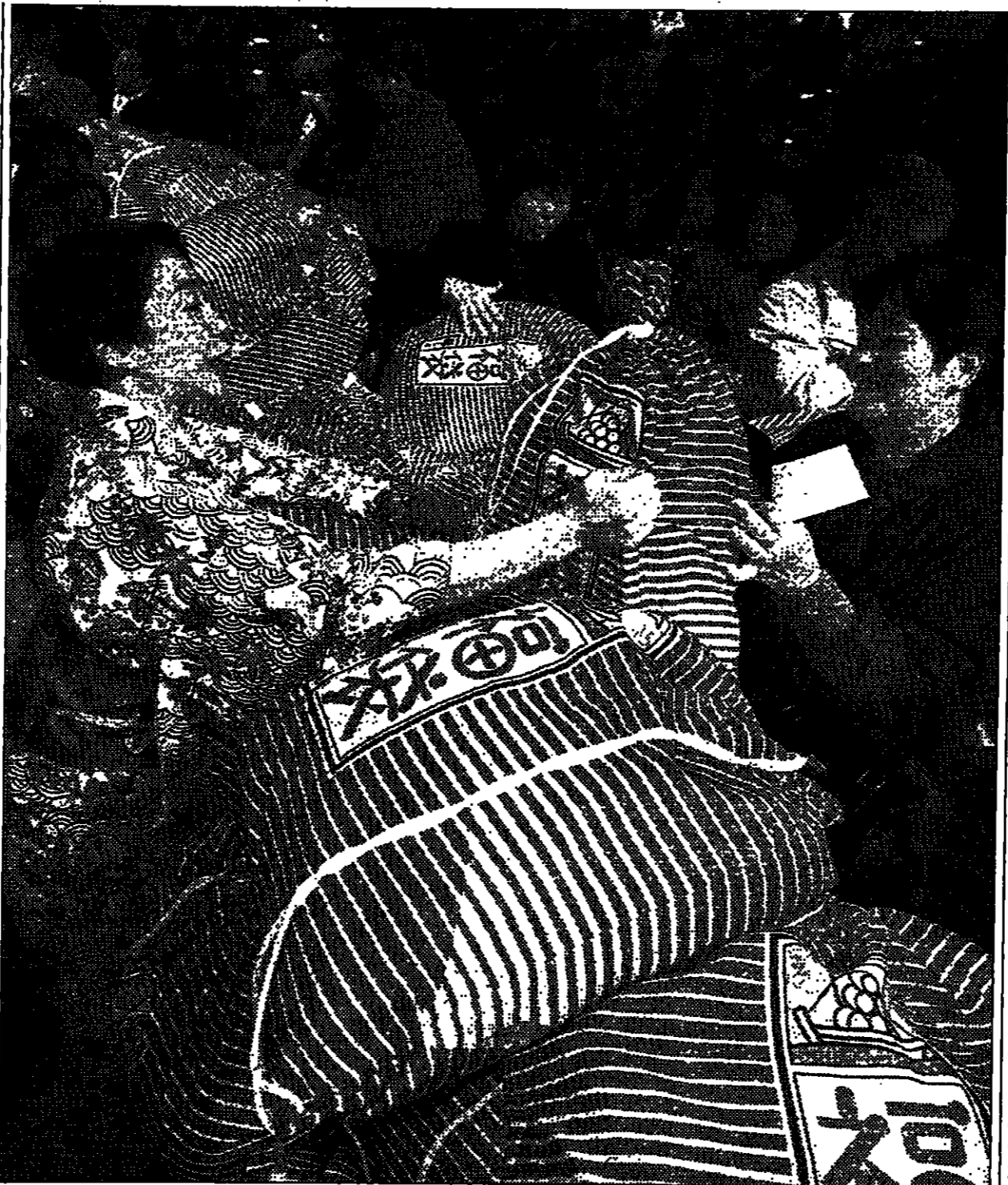
At issue are two conflicting

### US diplomats in Moscow dipped into charity funds to pay local staff

plans to balance the federal budget by the year 2002. The Republican plan features a \$245 billion tax cut which Mr Clinton rejects, along with increases in the premiums pensioners pay for their health insurance. Republicans say Mr Clinton's plan spends too much on education and environmental programmes.

Public employees say they are feeling direct hardship. Businesses which depend on government workers are also feeling the squeeze, along with 200,000 applicants for passports which cannot be issued. A backlog of 30,000 visa applications by non-Americans is growing daily.

● The US budget deadlock could keep Brazil out of next week's Gold Cup football tournament in Los Angeles. US consulates are refusing to issue the players with visas because of the cutback in services worldwide, the Brazilian Soccer Federation said.



Lucky dip... A Tokyo bargain hunter buys a fukubukuro (lucky bag) filled with cut-price goods. It is a tradition for Japanese stores to sell the bags to launch the new year's business. This department store sold 5,000 of them yesterday at 265 apiece

## English knight errant drew wine from the Dragon hills

Seth Faison in Shazikou

THE craggy hills around the little town of Shazikou are called the Nine Dragons. For centuries peasants have struggled to grow grain on their slopes. But some have found a new job: they grow grapes for a winery that produces some of the best wine in China.

The wine-makers whose bottles of Chardonnay and Riesling are carried by van down the winding roads

say they owe their fortune to the efforts of a stubborn Englishman who first dug his spade into this lime-heavy soil 13 years ago.

Michael Parry did not live to see their success. His \$600,000 investment bankrupted him, and in 1991 he died of cancer. "He was a man who could not be stopped," said Wu Lixu, the company's chief wine-taster. "He had an idea and he worked at it. We owe everything to him." Wine is only beginning to

gain popularity with the Chinese who, until recently, preferred a 100-proof sorghum-based alcohol once described as tasting like aviation fuel.

Nevertheless, the 100,000 cases that the Huadong Winery is producing this year falls short of demand. Mr Wu — who did not even know wine was made from grapes before he was asked for a job at Huadong — says: "If we educate people about wine, they will drink it — Mr Parry always said that."

Parry, who went to Asia in 1973 as an accountant for a British insurance company, first visited China in the late 1970s after becoming a distributor of wine and spirits.

"When you have 1,300 wines and spirits in your portfolio, it's natural to think about starting your own vineyard," said Gabriel Tam, Parry's former partner, who now runs Huadong. "Everyone thinks about it. Michael Parry actually did it."

25 miles from the east coast city of Qingdao, famous for the beer it exports all over the world — because the limey soil and south-facing slopes favour grapevines.

When he arrived in 1982 he found hundreds of plots farmed individually by peasants. Persuading them to grow grapes instead of other crops was Mr Tam's job, and it took time. "He was a big man, with a huge belly, and he looked out of place here," Mr Tam said. "He didn't speak the language, and knew nothing

about Chinese culture. There were a lot of conflicts. But he always fought on."

Parry died in Hong Kong in 1991. His ashes were buried on the hill behind the winery and farm workers still tend his grave. Since then the business has flourished. Rows of vines stretch into the distance, surrounded by apple orchards, and the seasons bring ritual plantings and harvests that enrich the farm workers. — *New York Times.*

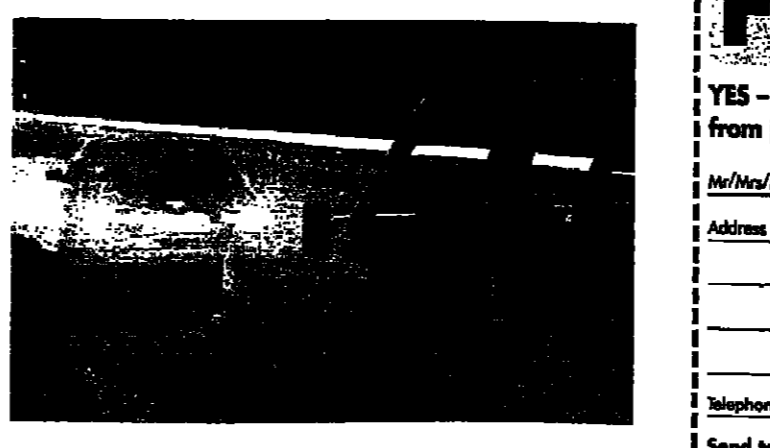
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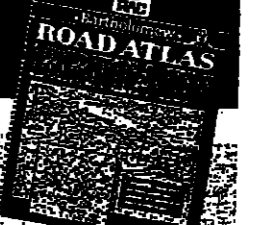
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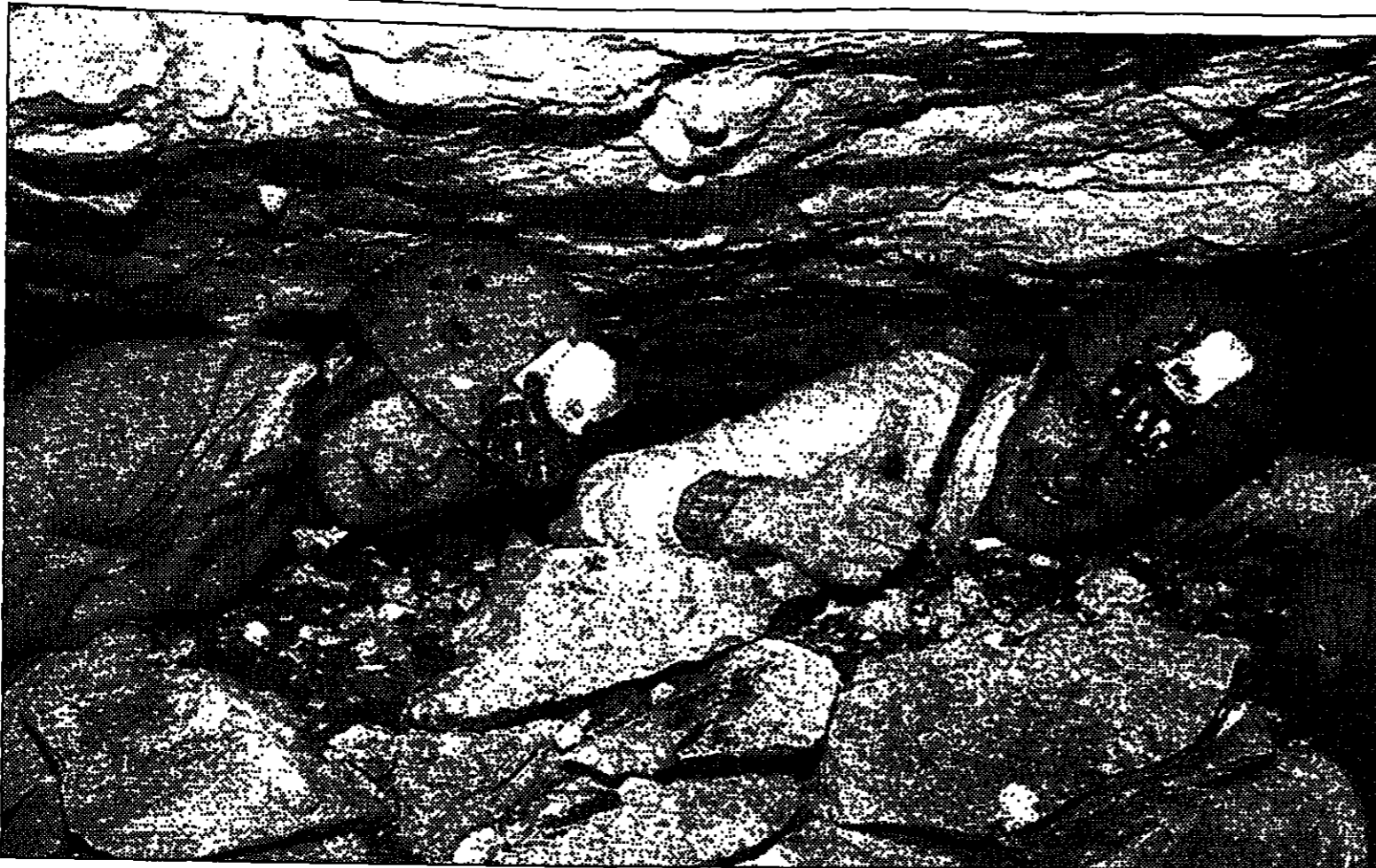
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Beneath Arras... Potholers Jannick Roy (left) and Pascal Barrier prepare for 60 days under the north-eastern French town. PHOTOGRAPH: GERARD CERLES

### Potholers aim to ferret out secrets of war

**Eyewitness**  
**Alex Duval Smith in Arras**

food, a camping stove, a mountain bike, a Yamaha keyboard, 300 litres of water, 20 litres of wine and a hairdryer.

On April 9, 1917, the tunnelers — known as "bantams" because of their small size — blasted their way out of the ground for a surprise attack at Tilloy-les-Mofflaines which forced the Germans to retreat six miles.

A number of Arras's quarries were subsequently turned into wine cellars. The constant temperature below ground is 11°C — ideal for storing wine and maturing cheese.

Spokesman Philippe Garcia said: "It is costing us £100,000 (£12,500) ... If the tunnels and quarries are found to be in good condition, there is a great deal of tourist potential there."

NO ONE in the brick hangar of Arras's sleepy suburbs has ever given much thought to the manhole cover outside No 2 Rue de l'Abbé Lemire. But today it will be levered off to reveal a conduit to a historical time warp.

Two French pot-holing enthusiasts are to spend the next 60 days exploring a network of tunnels which allowed Commonwealth troops to launch one of the most spectacular assaults of the first world war.

"In February 1917, the Germans regrouped, retreating from the line for which the New Zealand tunnellers were heading. This meant their effort was abandoned and all soldiers were sent up to the British artery, known as the Saint Sauveur tunnel, which emerges at Tilloy-les-Mofflaines," said Mr Jacques.

The archaeologist, who has provided the pot-holers with their only map — provided by the British in 1930 — pointed to a six-inch lump object on the ground: a strap from a British officer's boot.

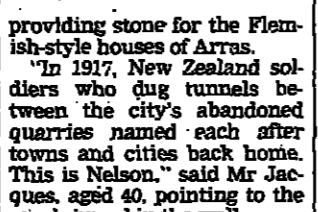
"The caves are strewn with artefacts. The pot-holers have already found several regimental coats of arms, etched into the walls," he said. He pointed to a dark recess which appears to have been a rubbish and rubble tip.

Mr Roy, aged 31, and Mr Barrier, aged 30, will look for graffiti and everyday items left behind by up to 55,000 Commonwealth soldiers who spent six months tunnelling beneath the trenches.

Yesterday, 60ft below Rue de l'Abbé Lemire, the two men were setting up their base camp in a 25ft-high chalk chamber: two tents, timed

providing stone for the Flemish-style houses of Arras.

"In 1917, New Zealand soldiers who dug tunnels between the city's abandoned quarries named each after towns and cities back home. This is Nelson," said Mr Jacques, aged 40, pointing to the word carved in the wall.



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### British Euro-scepticism 'not main threat to EU'

## Delors warns of Paris-Bonn rift

Paul Webster in Paris

THE threat of a split between France and Germany was the real danger to Europe's future, rather than a crisis in relations with Britain, former French European Commission president, Jacques Delors, said yesterday.

Mr Delors, who turned down a chance of becoming the Socialist presidential candidate last year, appeared sceptical of repeated promises by President Jacques Chirac on European monetary and political union.

without fall attached to a Europeanised Germany and not a German Europe, and stepped down as Commission president last year, did not mention the present French government during a review of a pessimistic book on Europe in the weekly, his analysis of French policy implicitly included recent decisions by Mr Chirac to suspend the Schengen agreement to end border controls and his contemptuous rejection of EU condemnation of French nuclear tests.

He made it clear he thought German leaders were the better Europeans and were the real power behind moves for constructive political co-operation. Arguing it was wrong to focus on British reluctance towards political co-operation as the divisive factor inside the EU, Mr Delors said the fact had to be faced that France had been playing with fire by swinging between a sovereignty reflex and Germany's ambition for federation.

France plays with fire by swinging from nationalism to federalism

"It would be wrong to reduce this last point to a simple demand by Germany," he wrote.

Let's have the courage to recognise that the true risk today is not so much that of a Euro-British crisis as that of a Franco-German split," said Mr Delors, writing in the left-wing magazine Le Nouvel Observateur.

A federation of nation states was needed because it lifted ambiguity over the conflicting ambitions of France and Germany, Mr Delors argued. A federation would allow joint initiatives to de-

velop while maintaining domestic identity forged by history, blood and modes of government.

Mr Delors's review of a book called Europe's Choice by Laurent Cohen-Tanugi carried a note of regret that he was not still in charge of the Commission and at the centre of policy on a single currency and political union. Mr Delors, who has retired from public life, pointed out that, despite doubts on European unity, Mr Cohen-Tanugi had praised the federal approach that dominated discussions during Mr Delors's term in office.

Last month, the two leaders decided on a joint programme to speed up a single currency and, in his New Year message, Mr Chirac said that European co-operation was more necessary than ever for France.

It was after seeing Chancellor Helmut Kohl in October that Mr Chirac said that a single currency was "the priority of priorities" — a decision which brought about social security austerity measures to balance the budget, which helped spark off recent industrial unrest.

## EC orange tariff gives squeezers the pip

Stephen Bates in Brussels

juice has not been taken up in a big way. Continentals are prepared to make do with thin and syrupy pasteurized juice which looks as if it has never been in contact with the skin.

30 per cent more to import them. The price will have to be passed on, and we are afraid that most people will not be able to afford to pay it."

THE British appetite for fresh orange juice is likely to be squeezed after a tart reminder of the European Commission's power to preserve the rights of Mediterranean citrus-growers.

It is only in recent years that freshly squeezed juice has made an impression on the British market.

In the complex world of squeezing you cannot use just any old orange. The navel oranges which are the main products of Spanish and Greek groves contain a substance in the pith called limonin which makes the juice taste bitter within an hour or two of being squeezed.

The price of bottled fresh juice, a best-seller in supermarkets and sandwich bars, is likely to rise by at least 20 per cent next month following the imposition of tariffs on imported oranges to protect orange-growers in Spain, Italy and Greece.

British fresh juice producers use Lam Valencia oranges which, despite their name, are available from Europe only for about three months in the early summer, and have to be imported from the US, Brazil or South Africa for the rest of the year.

It is these imports which are now being subjected to the tariff. So far the Commission has relented to the extent of allowing in 12,000 tonnes of non-EU oranges at reduced rates, mainly to satisfy British cravings.

The introduction of tariffs of up to 30 per cent on oranges grown outside the EU will badly affect the British industry, the orange squeezers say, because it relies on supplies from Florida, the Caribbean and Latin America for much of the year.

Officials in Brussels are planning to look at the tariffs again next week.

A Commission spokesman said: "The Greeks and Italians want the British to import their oranges instead. If other members of the family are producing fruit they are not likely to be happy if you say you want to buy your fruit elsewhere."

Most of Europe has not noticed the problem because, surprisingly, freshly squeezed

from a cottage industry run from an East London back kitchen to a main supplier of hotels and restaurants.

He said yesterday: "It will certainly make the industry contract, and for no good reason."

**The very notion of Sainsbury needing to bribe its customers to stay loyal illustrates the extent to which times have changed.**  
Roger Cowe

G2 cover story

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## Murders in a vacuum

Belfast's drug deaths must not derail the talks

LIKE nature, politics abhors a vacuum and in a situation like Northern Ireland the consequences are not merely undesirable in principle but have once more become bloodily fatal in practice. Yet five killings of alleged drug dealers in as many weeks have now also put the whole future of the province in 1996 in the balance. This is because, in the absence of sustainable politics, these otherwise secondary issues of crime and disorder always become magnified. Magnified, they in turn hijack the bigger agenda, defining the terms on which all politics can be conducted. In the presence of politics, on the other hand, the peripheral issues remain where they belong and, far from being magnified, can even become progressively diminished.

That's the theory. But it fits much of the recent history of Northern Ireland and it is now the fundamental context within which the current surge of drugs killings there needs to be seen. It was political initiative which brought about the ceasefires. But the absence of continuing political initiative has now finally put those same ceasefires at risk. It has created the vacuum which the recent murders have filled. The murders have become the issue of the moment, displacing more lasting questions and illustrating that the whole process is still vulnerable to every fresh violent act.

This is because, in spite of the optimism of the Clinton visit, there is still so little momentum at the centre of things in Northern Ireland. The dangers were very fully outlined by Cardinal Cahal Daly in an address at the weekend. But they were further underlined yesterday by the readiness with which serious politicians like the Conservative backbencher Andrew Hunter and the Unionist deputy leader John Taylor raised the possibility of abandoning contacts with Sinn Fein. That

kind of over-reaction is characteristic of destabilised politics. But it needs to be repeated that it is not in anyone's interests for this to continue.

This does not excuse or justify the murders in any way at all. Murder never solves anything. The drugs problem in Northern Ireland (which should not be exaggerated) is not going to be ended (insofar as such phenomena are ever ended) by bullets in the head. Nevertheless it is clear that these killings, which are almost universally acknowledged to be the work of the IRA (and which Sinn Fein has signally refused to condemn), are in part a consequence of the slow progress on political talks. Interpretations of the meaning of the killings differ substantially — some claim they show Gerry Adams's weakening hold, while others say the precise opposite — but all accept that they are intimately related to the slowness of the wider political process. They probably wouldn't be happening — and they certainly wouldn't matter so much — if the political agenda was moving forward more confidently.

However hateful the IRA's deeds and Sinn Fein's evasions, the fact remains that Britain and Ireland embarked on the peace process because they believed that political initiatives could stop the killings. They were right then and they are still right today. If nothing else these IRA drug murders ought to show the governments that there is little to be achieved by stringing out the political brinkmanship of the last few months. It is possible that this anxious period will end soon, when Senator Mitchell's committee on decommissioning, to whose activities the killings are a deliberate descant, reports next month. But the real question is about continuing the political momentum, and in the end that is the inescapable responsibility of the two governments.

## The perils of social selection

The new proposals are arbitrary, capricious and subjective

WINSTON Churchill thought head-teachers had powers "with which Prime Ministers have never yet been invested". Now, it seems, they may be given even more powers. Yet another education consultation paper is due out next week. According to our Education Editor, ministers are contemplating abandoning a central plank of comprehensive education to allow interviews with children and parents to play a key role in the selection process. This would be even worse than the 11 plus which branded the three out of four children who failed to gain entry into grammar schools as "failures" at the very start of their secondary education. Social selection poses even more perils than academic selection. At least the 11 plus was based on objective criteria. The new proposal could not be more arbitrary, capricious and subject to bias. It is for this reason that head-teachers are exhorted in the current guidance on school admission to avoid using interviews as part of their formal admission procedure.

This is not the first time the Tories have flirted with the idea of reintroducing selection. Three years ago the hapless John Patten, while still Education Secretary, seemed ready to back selection when he wrote in the *New Statesman* of "a vice that dare not speak its name in hard-core comprehensive circles". But in the end Patten opted for specialisation: the long-approved tradition of allowing some schools to cater for children with special aptitudes in

arts, music, physical education or technology. There was good reason for this retreat. For the last decade, successive Tory education ministers have had one common theme: giving consumers more say. All have chanted the same mantra: increasing parental choice. To this end, the 1988 Education Act set every school a specific number of places. Parents were given an unrestricted right of access for their children to the school of their choice until the last desk in the school was filled. Now, it seems, this may end. Heads may be given the right to turn away children on such unclear criteria that no appeal system would be able to deal with the dissatisfied. Parents will revolt. Just as serious for ministers, heads may end up hating the proposal even if a spokesman of opted-out schools embraced the idea on Tuesday. Social selection will increase the social pressures on heads and expose even the most judicious to unfair suspicions.

What's going on? Politics. The Prime Minister is still searching for Conservative election themes. Last September he floated the idea of a fast-track for church schools wanting to opt out. They would no longer need to consult parents. This backfired when it was rightly rejected by both Anglicans and Catholics, who did not wish to be distinguished from other schools. So now officials have plucked another item from last September's wishlist: giving heads more say over admissions. This social selection too, needs spiking.

## Slippery slope of football reform

An idea as sick as a parrot. Leave the posts where they are

WE HAVE got so used to politicians moving the goal posts that a fresh occurrence is hardly worthy of comment: but when the custodians of the goal posts themselves start moving the goal posts it is time to take note. What is surprising about FIFA's proposal to widen the distance between the two uprights (by two footballs) and to raise the height of the posts (by one football) is that it hasn't happened before. Goals in Scotland have been changed from being square to rectangular, but the basic dimensions of British goal posts have been unchanged since the rules were formalised a century ago. Football, perversely, has spawned a cliché it was never guilty of itself. It's a foul.

Fifa wants to make football more exciting by making it easier to score goals. After all, people are ten inches taller than when the length of the goal was originally based on the height of three average men. Last season 2.59

goals per match were scored from 2,028 games in the Premier and league divisions. This is roughly what happens every year. But it doesn't follow that more strikers would have scored if the goals were bigger: nor that more goals would put in more punters. Spectators like football to be exciting not easy.

And, once we embark on the slippery slope of change, the reforms are endless: oval shaped goals, pitches proportionate to the average height of players, reducing the size of the ball, extra points for scoring from outside the penalty area, time-outs, sponsored goal posts and so on. Soon handicaps would be introduced (like wider goals for the strongest teams?) to be used, as in horse racing, to make the game "fairer". This won't have any merit — apart from making soccer's second big cliché come true — the level playing field. Fifa should stop moving the goal posts. They are perfectly content where they are



## Letters to the Editor

### The right to life (plus 70)

JOHN Ezard dismisses the rationale behind the extension of copyright all too easily (Royalty lingers on, January 2). A fair copyright law is one of the foundations of our literary and cultural life. Samuel Johnson also said that only a fool writes for nothing: we can only expect our most talented creators to continue to entertain us if they can make a living from their work.

One can argue about the relative merits of a 50- or a 70-year term; but in the age of the international information superhighway, the international harmonisation of copyright law will be essential to prevent the establishment of piracy havens, and to protect the cash investment of publishers and producers, and the less tangible but equal investment of working life of the creators. Harmonisation of the term of copyright within Europe is only the first step in this process — but a necessary one.

It is not "illegal" to perform copyrighted works unless a royalty has been paid. The legislation is quite clear that all such acts shall be treated as licensed (shall be legal), but that a royalty must be paid. It need not be agreed before the event, so no author's descendant will be able to hold potential users to ransom. Emma Trevelyan, Deputy General Secretary, The Writers' Guild, 480 Edgware Road, London W2 1EH.

DOUBTLESS the extension of copyright from 50 to 70 years after a composer's death will cause confusion,

particularly as Britain will be out of step with most of the other English-speaking nations. But there will be benefits too, most notably for living composers.

Britain has lost almost all of its large music publishers because of mergers and takeovers from abroad in the latter part of this century. As a consequence, the living composer of serious music now depends on the small publisher, or publishes his works himself, since large conglomerates cannot afford to represent more than a handful of the most well-known names. Music publishing is risky for these small publishers. Profits are small and slow in coming and outgoings are high.

So the conglomerates will earn more from the copyrights they have bought — what's new? More important, the smaller publisher is able to compete on equal terms in Europe, and the sacrifices made by the self-publishing composer will be recouped (one hopes) by his heirs for just that little bit longer. Alison Birkinshaw, 2 Willowbank, Fawcote Road, Colne, Lancs BB8 7AG.

JOHN EZARD is right to criticise the Government for the inadequate time it gave Parliament to debate the newly enacted Copyright Duration Directive. The Directive was agreed by the European Council of Ministers on October 29, 1993. Eventually on December 6, 1995, draft British regulations were published by the Government. It takes the draft regulations in such a way as to prevent Par-

liament from debating and voting on amendments. We were given just eight working days to consider the effect of these complex changes. Geoff Hoon MP, 8 Station Street, Kirby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire NG17 7AR.

FAR from coming back into copyright, as John Ezard suggests, Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan stories have never been out of it. The author assigned all his rights to a legal entity called Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. A corporation, legally recognised as a person, has the potential to live forever, rendering even a 70-year-after-death copyright meaningless. That means that Tarzan, along with Batman, the Lone Ranger, Mr Spock, Noddy and most other 20th-century cultural icons may never be out of copyright.

In most cases, it's not the families of the creators, but corporate sharks guarding their eternal franchise. Their gain is the readers' loss. John Porter, 29 Byron Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 3RA.

WHY should the works of composers and writers automatically and without cost enjoy copyright protection for 70 years after death, whereas scientific intellectual property can only be protected by patents, which are difficult and expensive to obtain and last at most 20 years? Just another example of how society undervalues scientific and engineering talent? R M Adelson, 11 Hornby Hill Close, Hornby, Lancaster LA2 8LB.

## Pulp fiction

I'M incredulous at the dismissal of Pulp fiction by Bel Pirtan (Letters, January 3) as the sexist reinforcement of stereotypes. All the characters in Pulp songs are victims, regardless of sex. Common People is based on a real experience of snobbery, and sums up best the human sense which the underclass of Britain is so desperate to escape. We all know the Deborah of Disco 2,000, present in all co-ed classrooms. If Suzanne Moore applauded Pulp for singling out a certain class, snobbery, and giving kudos to nerd status, so much the better. Liz Nightingale, 31 Shakespeare Tower, Barbican, London.

WHO is this "John Major" (a Sark?) or "John Major" (an African?) whose signature appeared on that recent newspaper advertisement (Letters, January 2)? A graphologist friend commented on the exaggerated ascenders with their bloated loops, suggesting a "pie in the sky" personality. He was intrigued with the elongated thin descender suggesting a "down in the pits" personality; obviously the signature of a mixed-up character. Such a low standard would not be tolerated in any school. William Asbridge, 42 West End, Witney, Oxon OX29 6NF.

INTERESTING that the male Conservative politicians attacking Emma Nicholson are using language commonly used when men seek to degrade women: Heseltine said she was "frustrated", Major described her as "behaving 'without warning'", John Carlisle said she was "prostituting her views" and Tebbit said she had "importuned" him. This sexist arrogance says far more about them than about Ms Nicholson. Nigel Ilger, Middleton House, Waverbridge, Nr Wigton, Cumbria CA7 0DT.



## The stars predict a row

ASTROLOGY-bashing by writers of horoscopes is sweet fresh air about it (Whem's World, January 3) reinforces popular prejudice and attempts to banish the disquieting possibility that whole birthcharts consistently yield more sense than can be dismissed. All newspaper coverage, even by great scientists

and witty journalists, is lazy: if no attempt has been made to understand or experience the complexities of birth-chart reading. Accept no false debate between cynicism and gullibility; the truth about astrology is more interesting. Nasrita Williams, 32 Cholmeley Crescent, London N6 5HA.

## Drugs and death in Ireland

IF Sinn Fein's Mitchell McLaughlin is correct that there is no evidence that the Provisional IRA carried out the recent murders of alleged drug dealers (Major facing Unionist ire over IRA drug killings, January 3), what possible objection can he have to joining all democrats in denouncing such savagery? If, as most people reasonably suspect, the Provisional IRA is behind these murders and the escalating regime of so-called punishment beatings, his silence once more exemplifies Sinn Fein's self-exclusion from dialogue with democratic forces. Peter Bottomley MP, President, New Dialogue, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

THE current killings and maimings must assuredly be condemned. But the role of successive British governments must also be acknowledged. Collective and co-ordinated violence is learned behaviour. In Britain's first and last colony, it has been

learned well. My own father, as a small boy in Newry, remembers neighbours who disappeared at the hands of the British Black and Tans, their tortured corpses to be found on the edge of town the next morning. Their injuries included broken kneecaps, gouged eyes and removal of genitals.

These are living memories in Northern Ireland today. The terrorists of Ulster are the sons and daughters of a violent history, virtually all of it perpetrated by the British. The bombings in Warrington, London and elsewhere are also remembered in Ireland, with shame and sadness. Yet neither the British government nor media are willing to provide people in Britain with a balanced picture. There is, in other words, no British memory of the violence with which succeeding governments have managed the so-called "Irish problem". Detfried Boden, Lecturer in Sociology, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YL.

## Faced with an unruly, violent mob? You need constitutional reform

LORD Weatherill writes persuasively of the need for "a radical shake-up" at Westminster and beyond (House of Shards, December 29). He is surely right to advocate an extension of the composition of Parliament; some form of devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; an elected authority for London, and the return of powers to local government.

All these matters are inter-related. To transform the composition of the House of Lords so as to make it intellectually defensible could lead to changes in its powers: this affects the House of Commons which has suffered every previous attempt to reform the Lords. To make the Commons more efficient, by reducing its numbers and altering the electoral process, affects and is affected by devolution. This in turn impinges on the powers of local government, including a London authority. The EU provides a permanent, and changing, framework.

Would it not be sensible to adopt an orderly, gradualist approach to these interlocking issues? After all, they represent a new constitutional settlement for the millennium. An authoritative Royal Commission might take some of the party politics out of constitutional-making. The Commission should be designed to last for at least the life-time of two Parliaments, and should be charged with making recommendations sequentially, which would in turn be put into effect individually as approved. This would secure the benefits both of incremental change and of mutually informed recommendations.

As it is, both the main political parties seem to be adopting a policy of piecemeal inertia (Labour) or piecemeal inertia (Conservative). In either case, we are likely to be landed with ad hoc solutions governed by short-term party political advantage. Lord Bancroft, House of Lords, London SW1A 0AA.

BERNARD Weatherill is profoundly right when he claims: "I have not known a time when parliamentarians have been held in lower repute." The fundamental reason is that Parliament is so unrepresentative. At the last General Election, six out of 10 voters supported parties and policies different from those of the present Government. Indeed, since the second world war, no government has won an absolute majority of votes.

Like Bernard Weatherill, I once believed and practised the old adversarial politics. I have turned my back on this artificial, unrepresentative system. I now advocate proportional representation, and in particular, the single transferable vote that puts power in the hands of the electorate. (Rev) David Mason, Chairman, The Electoral Reform Society, 6 Chancel Street, London SE1 0UU.

BARBARA Ehrenreich (Comment page, December 29) attributes the shoddiness of US society to corruption of the electorate by misinformation. On the same page Lord Weatherill says our voters are well-informed. They are not. Certainly they seem to have reached the correct conclusion that it is high time to exercise the supreme virtue of parliamentary politics in that the governed can get rid of the governing party when it goes rotten. But the voters have come to that view because they know it to be true in their own lives.

It is still the case that our electorate is so politically uneducated and misinformed that they are surprised when a Conservative Government enacts privatisation of the main utilities, and become disappointed by the inevitable consequences of placing profit above all else. Does anybody read *Tawney* these days? Lord Jenkins of Putney, 75 Kenilworth Court, Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 1EN.

DURING eight months in Slovenia, I was able to see proceedings in the House of Commons from an entirely different perspective. On one Slovene TV channel I could watch the Duma in Moscow or the parliament in Vienna. And I was delighted to see Britain's Conservatives defeated on two occasions. I have no doubt that much change is needed here. As a result of "yah-boo politics", particularly at Question Time, the House of Commons appears the most rowdy parliament in Europe, that of Italy alone excepted. In comparison the Slovene parliament appears dignified and orderly. Its speaker never needs to shout. When televised, Slovene MPs do not choose to make exhibitions of themselves. Their system allows far less drama, but at least it saves an almost unlimited waste of time. Robin PJ Ball, 62 Stanstead Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6AB.

## A Country Diary

THE BURREN, IRELAND: To return to the Burren is to experience pure and undiluted joy in the region's timelessness, austere beauty of hills, valley, sea and sky, the tidal ebb and flow. I write at this moment, 2.30pm on January 1, 1996 (a happy 1996 to all), the temperature is +10C, the sky blue over a blue sea — a zephyr barely stirs the yellow-gold of mountain leaves beneath glistening holly. Two days ago the temperature varied up and down from -4C to zero. Our hills, Cappanawalla, Allwee, Abbey, Turlough were snow-covered, the valley fields crusted thick with white frost, poor wild birds darted low over the roads. North Sea divers, cormorants rode a quiet sea while further north in Galway's docks, gulls floated on great slabs of ice. Throughout this glacial spell the sun shone. Indeed it shone almost every autumnal day so that the seasonal lengthening of nocturnal darkness was less noticeable than in rainy weather when packed,

massed clouds obliterate its rays. Christmas Eve saw lighted candles in village windows, the traditional Christmas welcome for strangers. The best Christmas story is of Jack, Mary Ann's grandson, aged six. He was the innkeeper in his school's Nativity play. He told his mother, because he didn't want the part because he didn't want to say "No room at the inn". She persuaded him to carry on. At the performance Jack opened the door to Mary and Joseph's knocking, saying loudly, "No room at the inn but you can come in for a drink if you like". The best tourist story of 1995, told by the inimitable Jim Hyland: "Two visitors from abroad were told by their guide, 'Today we are going to visit the Burren Country.' That's good, responded one. 'He was always my favourite poet.'" As Robbie himself says, "This day Time winds 'th exhausted chain. To run the twelve-month's length again." (Burns)

SARAH POYNTZ



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Diary Matthew Norman

WOULD you believe it, a strong contender has already come forward in the 1996 search for Great Britain's most amusing press office. It is Lambeth Council, which has issued a press release about the appointment of a new Finance Chief. Mr Crich, says the document, has been poached from (of all paragons of local government excellence) Brent Council, where he "excelled at the cutting edge of local authority financial management". In particular, Mr Crich "created and controlled 100 'business units' in Brent, and what finer testament to Crich's fiscal talents could there be? However, perhaps aware of the danger of over-praising him, the press release fails to mention one of the ventures which formed "this pioneering approach to service quality and value for money". So manifestly successful was The Brent Ad Shop that it was wound up last February, having lost some £400,000 of public money. Famously, £23,800 vanished when its director, Ruth Jackson, decided to hold an hour-long staff meeting not in Brent itself, but at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport.

ONE of the great tax-avoidance scams of the age is about to be stopped. Accountancy Magazine reports that Customs and Excise are finally addressing the scandal of incontinence pads. It appears that private nursing homes have been taking advantage of the zero VAT-rating which applies to incontinence pads, and applying for tax relief which should justly apply only to sufferers themselves and to charities buying supplies on their behalf. However, the patience of Customs has worn out: in future, to qualify for relief, nursing homes will be obliged to make separate orders on behalf of each individual patient.

It will be intriguing to learn whether this Government (or a future Labour government) will ask the tax collector to address the less significant loophole exploited by News International, which has paid virtually no tax on profits of nearly £1 billion over the last decade. But at least Mr Murdoch continues to share his good fortune with his employees. A small plastic coffee stirrer, known technically as a "milk jigger" (and in nickname as "the Digger's jigger"), has been sent anonymously to the Diary, with the news that in the Wapping tea shop menu it is priced at 3p—the same, in fact, as a small sachet of sugar. Working at a conservative profit-margin estimate of 200 per cent, Mr Murdoch will need to sell only about 10 billion jiggers this year to pay his corporation-tax bill, should the loophole be closed.

WHENEVER the King of Siam drove her to despair, Missus Anna would whistle a happy tune. But Lord Woodrow Wyatt, the sage of Weeford, has an even better method of beating gloom. Why worry about human tragedy in Rwanda or Bosnia, he counsels Times readers, when we live in the paradise on Earth that is Blighty? His own garden, for instance, is close by Lord's; whenever a ball is top edged into the Wyatt flowerbed, he is reminded of cricket. "That most civilised of games that could only have been invented by the English... if Marx had examined cricket in the British Museum Reading Room, the history of the 20th century might have been different." How very true. The Atlantic Ocean's mighty waves beating on Cornish rocks... a cathedral cloister in a summer's dusk... a Scottish glen in the gloom... these are a few of his favorite things. "Thank God I am a typical Englishman," the dear old soul concludes, and thank God indeed. It is all too easy to take Lord Wyatt for granted now, of course, but should we ever lose our Empire, men of his spirit will be absolutely priceless.

NEWS arrives of the ascent to fame of a previously obscure English writer. A young woman has been overheard at the counter of a Waterstone's bookshop in London asking after a screenplay of Pride and Prejudice. "I'm afraid we haven't got that one," said the assistant. "but we do have Jane Austen's novelisation of the BBC serial."

ALSO overheard, this time in the West Midlands, is an encouraging hint of improved relations between local-authority officers and their councillor bosses. "We don't need a plan for care in the community," said a nameless director of housing. "We've got elections."

Major gambles with his place in history

Commentary Hugo Young

OPTIMISM is the professional deformity of the governing politician, just as scepticism is that of the skulking journalist. Our views on whether the glass is half-empty or half-full are predictable, and they come with the genetic as well as environmental inheritance. In this appointment of attitude, moreover, I thank God for the optimismists while doing what I can to contest their certainties and demolish their reassurance. Ministers are necessary betwix, and could not do their job unless they rode over every gloomy prediction, of which there were thousands about the unpopularity of privatisation, and every objection, including mine, to the next round of tax cuts at the expense of a decent education system. Pessimism ises politics into total paralysis.

Major, who believes that his predicament can only be solved in a job where every predecessor has found it necessary to believe the same thing. Harold Macmillan, abandoning belief in 1963, left office on a mental pretext which his doctors almost immediately discounted. He had had enough. James Callaghan, clinging to it in 1978, convinced himself that the wicket was bound to improve, and he presided over the election that lost the innings for British socialism. So it is today. Examining their position, ministers believe it has nowhere to go but up. They think time must be on their side. The past and present having dealt them such unmerited rejection, the future can only bring the people to their senses. Thirty per cent of Labour, Mr Major thinks he owes it to country and party to await the recovery that beckons. And convention supports what passes, in these straitened times, for optimism.

On this occasion, however, convention is almost certainly wrong. Optimism is fantasy. For the party's good it is mere ritual, for the country's a self-deceiving calamity. If the Government keeps itself alive through 1996, things can in fact only get worse. The cost of hanging on will, from every point of view

ment, which the Major Government is incapable of answering. As this year unfolds, every member of the European Union will be engaged in the slow, delicate business of negotiating Europe's future shape. For Britain the task will be the hands of a cabinet that is forced, by its irreconcilable divisions, to play a role which ranges between the negative and the destructive. With the Tory left at last beginning to show that it is not, after all, clinically invertibrate, Major knows that he can't allow Britain's hidden hand at the Intergovernmental Conference to be played by Mr Portillo. The continentals will have no choice but to delay conclusions until Britain sends a credible leader to the table. So delay in Europe, like delay in Ireland, is to be the salient gift bequeathed in these extended death-throes. Meanwhile, as the IGC meets and meets again, every rumoured movement will be

If the Government keeps itself alive through 1996, things can in fact only get worse

marked in Britain by the knee-jerk savagery of Tory rivals who are competing to possess the corpse. To shore up this existence, there will need to be further debasements of politics, further posturings to try and reel in some decline. You can hear them already. See on the horizon, the revival of old Communists in Russia and the possible appearance of an old Soviet general to lead them against Boris Yeltsin, and what is the response of our present-day statesmen?

Coming alive with a modem in the sunset

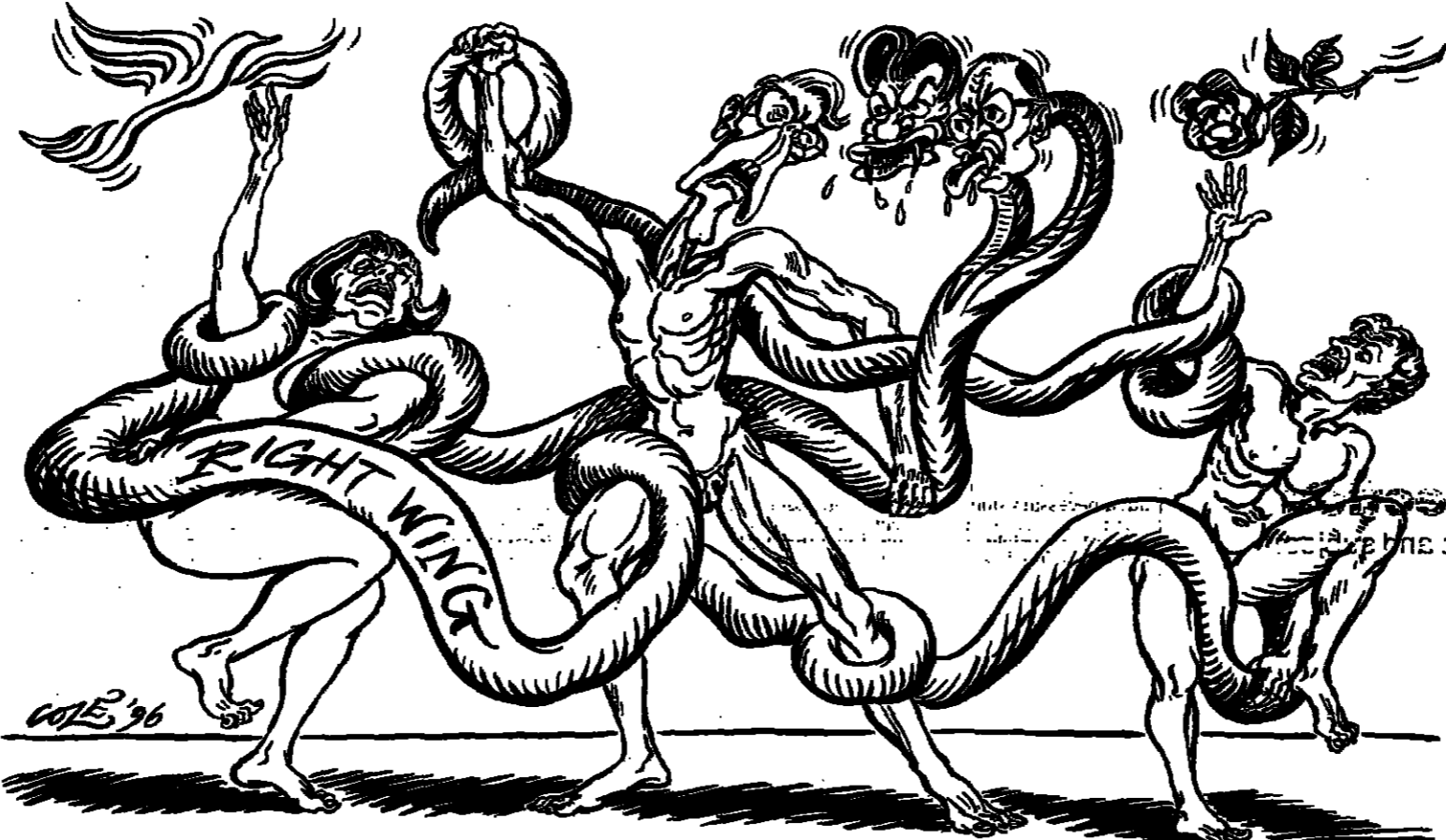


Natasha Walter

WHY DOES the new environmental movement alarm as well as delight us? Here are gentle young people living in twiggles and dancing round campfires, playing pipes and banging drums, lying in front of diggers and cranes. They look like they're having fun, but they also, unfortunately, suggest that environmental progress is an impossibly purist ideal. At best, they seem free of all the fudges most greenish sympathisers are forced to make. We waded through vast amounts of Cellophane and polystyrene and crisp packets love letters, even if we recycle a couple of glass bottles. We spent much of our Christmas break sitting on fumes-laden motorways, even if we take the bus to work. We know our little gestures aren't going to be enough to turn around the slow destruction of our environment, but then again, would calling ourselves Basher or living in a beehive help?

ment, if not the publicity, with intelligent lobbying, informed by expert opinion, rather than by banging off trees. Even the tree houses at Newbury are linked by CB radio, beepers and mobile telephones to each other and to a central office in the town where more telephones, computers and fax machines will link them to further cohorts of protesters, and to the journalists who will take their actions to the wider world. Apparently their communication system was designed by an ex-US naval engineer. When the bulldozers come in, they will be followed by television crews with their attendant trucks and cranes; and by alternative-news gatherers like Small World, who distribute videos of the protests for the public and campaigners. This unique mixture of activism and technological sophistication may turn out to be the most lasting cultural thumbprint of this generation of protesters. Environmentalists love computers; internet bulletin boards are stuffed with green information and Friends of the Earth have set up a site on the World Wide Web where users can view pictures of the Newbury bypass route and read about its environmental value. As one protester in Scotland said: "I am not a Luddite. I like the idea of having a beehive, a garden, a generator powering my computer linked up to the Internet."

So the most resonant thrust of the new environmental movement is not its promise to take us back to a pre-car society, which most of us, if we are being honest, can hardly bear to contemplate, but that possibility of taking us into a post-car society, in which cleaner, well-designed public transport can whisk us around and between cities as a good alternative to cars, leaving a few more trees intact. The post-modern rather than pre-modern ideal brings the pale green ladies in pleated skirts and the deep green girls with dreadlocks together in these protests. As one woman who left London to work from a virtual office in Wales said in an interview a couple of days ago: "It's a more healthy environment with space and sunsets and snow and hills. I have a modem in my employer's internal system; you can message people and not get lonely." Isn't this the complex goal that the new environmentalism must take us towards; with modems and sustainable energy to run alongside the sunsets and snow? It isn't as romantic as living out on the hills with the earth dragon, but if the new environmentalism is to succeed now rather than in some ideal future, we have to remember to see it as a series of social, political and scientific strategies rather than a religious movement. Though a little dancing never did any harm.



Will you join the dance?

Alan Howarth urges like-minded one-nation Tory MPs to join him in a principled move to New Labour from John Major's right-dominated party

SIX or seven MPs are said to be on the brink of leaving the Tory Party. If it would be a wondrous deliverance for them and for all of us if they were to do so. They are characters who will make up their own minds, but let me tempt them. It will do the country, and indeed the Conservative Party, nothing but harm for the Government to attempt to stagger through to an increasingly bitter end in 1997. Since the summer of 1994—the psychological turning point was the qualified majority voting fiasco—Tory MPs have seen election defeat staring them in the face. Hence the scapegoating—of each other and of the defenceless in society. Hence the increasingly irresponsible calls for tax cuts to buy short-term popularity. Hence the absorption in the developing struggle between moderates and the right for control of the party's future. Hence the early announcement by 50 Tory MPs that they do not wish to seek re-election. And hence the inertia of the Government. In July John Major played the last card available to him. He hung on to the leadership by the narrowest of margins. He made cosmetic changes to the Cabinet. But in the rest of the summer and the autumn, the right resumed its advances. He bows to those suggestions in the Treasury or in right-wing think tanks and cabals—who are most insistent with him. He appeases the right in the Tory party because they are militant and

conditions is wickedly irresponsible. Harsh treatment of the families of asylum-seekers and of single parents and young people in rented accommodation is again the politics of scapegoating. It is certainly not justified in terms of restoring the public finances. Sustained negativism in Europe is a pandering to insular prejudices. How much more should one-nation Tory MPs stomach? They cannot win the internal debate within the party. The critical disaster was John Major's abandonment of the attempt, almost as soon as he had begun it in 1990 and 1991, to redirect the party. The left of the party, having seen off Mrs Thatcher, were not related. They did not make the effort then to support the Prime Minister that they should have done, and he drifted away from them. When he failed to deal with Michael Portillo as Edward Heath did with Enoch Powell, the right knew they had won. The consequences will be fatal. The new generation of Tory parliamentary candidates, receiving no signal to reprogramme their reflexes, have continued as unconstructed Thatcherites—or, after her laying on of hands, Portilloites. All except a small handful of the new intake of Tory MPs at the next election will be rightwingers. Conservative MPs exclusively elect the leader of the party. The numbers will be stacked up against opposition MPs in the short and nasty struggle for power that will quickly follow the Tories' defeat at the next election. One nation cannot win that contest. Eventually one-nation values will be restored in the Tory party. But it will be a long cycle. Only when Michael Portillo or John Redwood, or whoever the right-wing leader of the Tories is, has lost the election after next will it be brought home to the

party that it has marginalised itself. The return to sanity and decency will begin then, but it will be well beyond its working lifetime of those who are now one-nation Tory MPs, nearly all being of an older generation. It is not their duty to provide respectability to a party and factionalism which will be committed to values and purposes which are anathema to them. They will do a better service to political life to let a rightwing Conservative Party be seen clearly by commentators and voters for what it is. One-nation Tories will be truer to themselves if they join one-nation Labour, which has accomplished its own long cycle of disenchantment from minority ideology and factionalism, and returned to realism and connection with the better nature of the British people. An MP who crosses the floor has to face the collective anger of a bitter party, amplified by the media. It is not pleasant to be characterised as prostituting oneself, as Emma Nicholson has been, or as deranged, as I was. But such abuse only reflects badly on those who perpetrate it, and comfort to be had from the understanding of individual ex-colleagues and moral support from constituents and all across the country. It is true that one jeopardises one's career and security, but one gains a profound release.

never to be lightly set aside, must not be the highest loyalty. To the argument that constituents vote for candidates as party representatives and not as individuals, the response must be that if that has indeed become increasingly the case it is a damaging legitimisation of that way. It is of course necessary for effective government, and parties and voters have legitimate claims to loyalty and consistency. But if Parliament is again to be a serious forum for the nation, and if it is to recover its capacity to scrutinise and check the executive, its members must retain a right to independence of judgment and action. For these reasons it is not for an individual MP to advise his or her party to resign and fight a by-election. It may seem "fair" to those who voted for the MP originally, and it is tempting for a politician to seek new legitimisation in that way. But it is a cop-out. An MP is elected to serve all his constituents for the duration of a parliament. As Burke long ago put it—"and as has always been accepted in the theory of our constitution—an MP owes his constituents not his industry only but his judgment". The Conservative Party has reached a point of confusion and aberration at which the judgment of its MPs who object deeply to rightwing zealotry must surely be that they should go beyond protesting. They have fought their corner bravely and doggedly from within, but they have not been able to prevail. The time has come for one-nation Tory MPs to say they will no longer put up with the harshness, injustice, dogmatism and stupidity of the dominant right. They should join the Labour Party, which is now the torch-bearer for their beliefs, and is ready to put them into practice in government.



Just £2.30 a week has made such a difference to Mrs Rasso

Mrs Rasso always worked hard until, at the age of 78, ill-health forced her to give up. It looked as if she would spend the rest of her life begging on the streets. But thanks to Adopt a Granny she has the basic things she needs—food, clothing, medicines and somewhere to live. For just £2.30 a week my sponsorship has helped to make an amazing difference to her life. In return I receive a photograph, regular reports and newsletters. But there are many other "grannies" who urgently need sponsors. Without this help, some could die. That's why I hope you will become a sponsor. You won't just help one "grain", but also support vital projects to improve life for whole communities. To find out more, clip the coupon now and post to: Mrs Helen Higgs, Adopt A Granny, Help the Aged, FREEPOST, London E01B 1E7. Jane Whitfield is a member of SAGN (Sage for Aged) - Help the Aged's Celebrate Support Committee.

Yes, I'm interested in sponsoring an elderly person. Please tell me what I can do... Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms Address Postcode Tel No. Send to: Mrs Helen Higgs, Adopt a Granny, Help the Aged, FREEPOST, London E01B 1E7. Help the Aged Adopt a Granny Registered Charity No. 272762



Sid Thompson

Grand old man of the Cumbrian crags

THE ROCK climber at 81 cuts a disad-

port harbour photographs of

the Great Flake; the first

partnership with Cliff Sand-

Around him on neighbouring

He has pedalled here the 23

So it was one Saturday

Thompson climbed exten-

Sid Thompson, who has

"Would you like a wine

In 1960 he began a climbing



Hands that helped in 44 climbs of Scafell's Central Buttress



Sid Thompson at 81... Britain's oldest rock climber

PHOTOGRAPHS: DON MCPHEE

panion made their way up it

more cautious you become. It

more cautious you become. It

Hamish Imlach

A song, a glass and a laugh

HAMISH IMLACH, who has died aged 55,

Australia before coming to

and Ray Fisher, and became

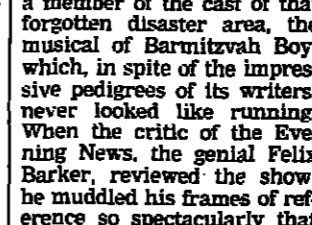
on I have a headache." He

touring partner, the respected

Benny Lee

Forever on with the show

BENNY LEE, who has died aged 79,



Radio days... Benny Lee at work in the fifties

became linked with mine in

Birthdays

Grace Bumbry, opera singer, 59; Alexander Chancellor, journalist, 59; Sir Ivor Colquhoun of Luss, Chief of the Clan, 79; Suzanne Danielle, actress, 39; Alan Dyer, chief constable, Bedfordshire, 62; Prof Keith Hancock, economist, 61; Prof Brian Josephson, FRSE, Nobel prize-winning physicist, 56; Prof Lance Lanyon, principal Royal Veterinary College, 52; John McLaughlin, blues and jazz guitarist, 53; Diana Mckill, civil servant, 67; John Marriott, former governor, Parkhurst Prison, 49; Margaret Marshall, concert singer, 47; Mick Mills, footballer, 47; Elyse Patterson, boxer, 61; Barbara Bunsell, actress, singer, 68; Frank West, band leader, 64; Jane Wyman, actress, 82.

Death Notices

GUSTAVUS JONES, Kenneth Michael, died unexpectedly but peacefully at home on December 27th 1995, aged 56 years. Father of Melvyn, Amanda and Sarah. Buried at St. Andrew's Church, 19th Dec 1995. Family flowers only, donations if wished to St. Andrew's Church, 19th Dec 1995. Rosbury Avenue, London EC1R 4BE Tel 071 874 0200

Acknowledgments

COOPER, Esther, née Wilbers. The family of the late Esther Cooper wishes to express their grateful thanks for kind sympathy and support received during the last illness of Esther. Burial took place at St. Andrew's Church, 19th Dec 1995. Family flowers only, donations if wished to St. Andrew's Church, 19th Dec 1995. Rosbury Avenue, London EC1R 4BE Tel 071 874 0200



Friend and mentor... Hamish Imlach led the way for Mike Harding, Jasper Carrott and above all Billy Connolly

Political commitment made

But he will be best remembered

Much of his material was

Germany became his main

Hamish was an outsize personality with gargantuan appetites

Moore and the Dubliners. At

Germany became his main

Hamish Imlach, folk singer and

Hamish Imlach, folk singer and

Hamish Imlach, folk singer and

Jackdaw



"I'M SITTING in a room now

light blue, green and brown-

"I'M SITTING in a room now

Ladder climb

EVERY YEAR I take a shooting

more frivolous than Green-

EVERY YEAR I take a shooting

the delightful sense of having

the delightful sense of having

tor of the Daily Telegraph) true

Try to think objectively

mentary on it and runs Joy

mentary on it and runs Joy

adults only smile 14 times a

adults only smile 14 times a

سكنا من الامل

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

Despite Robinson supporters' club, underwriters unhappy about level of bid needed to secure Forte

## City doubts Granada win

**G**RANADA'S headroom to launch a knock-out takeover bid for hotels group, Forte, was dealt a blow yesterday when some of the City's big fund managers said they would be unhappy to provide funds for a substantially higher offer. One investment manager said: "I wouldn't be surprised if Granada just walked away. They are not going to get Forts with the current level of bid and they will find it difficult to get an increased offer underwritten."

Granada's bid values Forte at about £3.12 billion and much of that is funded by a City-wide underwriting exercise in which investors agree to buy new shares for a minimum price. Another large fund management group said: "We would be prepared to stay as a sub-underwriter so long as Granada raised its bid by only a few pence but that is likely to be far lower than what they look likely to have to pay."

The group is expecting to be able to show its shareholders that the acquisition of Forte will enhance earnings and is likely to provide details of the £100 million a year profit improvement it believes achievable at the hotels group in its final document on January 9. But even shareholders who claim to be fans of Granada chief Gerry Robinson say they will need to be provided with substantial comfort if they are to agree to participate in a higher offer. One said: "I would

want to look very closely at any increase in the bid. We are supporters of Gerry Robinson but he is between a rock and a hard place on this one. Granada will probably have to increase its bid by at least 10 to 15 per cent to win and that would be on the very outer edges of what we would be happy with."

The investment group which will be crucial to the outcome of the bid, however, is Mercury Asset Management which has a shareholding of about 14 per cent in the bidder and the target but is believed to be a fan of Mr Robinson. MAM declined to comment yesterday. Julian Lewry of ABN Amro

Hoare Govett — which together with BZW and Chemical Bank arranged the original underwriting facility of £2.5 billion — said he was not aware of any hostility coming from the sub-underwriters. He added: "The banks were committed to what they knew would be a hostile bid, and I'd be surprised if any of them thought that Forte would just roll over... it was an initial offer, not a final offer."

### Notebook

## Political signals set against offer



Edited by Alex Brummer

**R**AILTRACK has been positioned on the privatisation slipway with the decision to announce a May public offer in which retail investors will enjoy a degree of preference. The decision by the Government and its financial advisers, SBC Warburg, to press ahead with the share issue is an act of bravery given the legal, political and business uncertainties surrounding rail privatisation. There have been setbacks in the courts over the new timetable and that may not be the last legal challenge. As serious, of course, is the political context of this offer. The weakness of the Government has been exposed by the defection of Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats, while Labour is planning to test the Government's majority in the Commons at every possible opportunity — and the unpopular rail privatisation will provide it with ammunition.

As important to investors, both here and abroad, is the uncertainty over what an alternative government would do about rail privatisation should John Major's government fall. The possibility that the railways will come back under official control is certain to weigh heavily with investors. One only has to watch the nervous trading in water utility stocks to see the potential risk. If Railtrack were simply evaluated as a business, then things would be far more straightforward. There are still critical matters to be settled like the shape of its balance sheet. Moreover, the financial community would be a great deal happier if more of the operating companies and franchises were in private hands before May, so that it could base its analysis on real market figures rather than accountants' estimates. Nevertheless, by assuring a steady seven-year income stream for Railtrack, the Government has gone some way to assuring investors on this point.

## Ford bullish on European return to profitability

**F**ORD expects its European operations to reverse recent losses and be profitable this year, chairman and chief executive Alex Trotman said yesterday, writes Chris Barrie. Speaking as industry executives gathered in Detroit for the town's International Motor Show, Mr Trotman said rising sales would continue in both the US and Europe. The company used the event to unveil its Indigo concept car. A road-going version is capable of 125 mph. Although he refused to quantify the size of the European profits ahead, Mr Trotman added that sales would be strong also in Latin America. The company's financial services unit is expected to increase profits by 30 per cent on 1994's \$1.5 billion (\$970 million) post-tax income. Ford expects its worldwide market share to be 13.4 per cent in 1995, up from 13.2 per cent in 1994. Total US car sales in 1996 will rise to about 15.3 million units compared with an estimated 15 million in 1995. Mr Trotman also said he was optimistic on the economy, predicting "modest, sustainable" growth with low inflation.



Blue streak... Ford's two-seat V12 concept car, the Indigo, was unveiled at the Detroit International Auto Show. PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD SHEINWALD

## Railtrack sell-off to go ahead in May

**T**HE Government signalled its determination to push ahead with railway privatisation yesterday by announcing that shares in Railtrack, the track operator, would be sold next May in a public and institutional offering through share shops nationwide. In a move to regain the political initiative on privatisation, ministers pledged that the sale, which could top £2 billion, would be preceded by a nationwide press and TV advertising campaign aimed at sweeping away fear among

investors and the public that the sell-off would prove unpopular. Stressing that the timetable for the Railtrack sale was being met, transport department officials suggested the sale would maximise income for the Government just as privatisation would inject more competition and choice. Rejecting claims from the Opposition that privatisation could yet be stopped, one official said "large and significant" railway operations had already taken place. But Labour swiftly condemned the sale announcement and warned investors that the party was determined to retain the railway infrastructure in public ownership. Transport spokesman Brian Wilson said: "Labour's strong advice to the investment community would be to steer clear of this unwanted privatisation."

The party was considering a number of options and may spell out its plans to potential investors ahead of the May sale, he added. The RMT union warned that Railtrack would only be profitable if it were allowed to sell off assets, including its extensive property portfolio. A spokesman said Railtrack was faced with a hefty investment programme which

would crush its ability to turn in profits. The union did not expect its members to participate in the share offer despite special deals for employees and pensioners. Under the terms of the Railtrack offer at least 30 per cent of the shares will be offered to the public who must register in advance with organisations acting as share shops, such as banks and building societies. Institutional investors, including overseas investors, will buy shares through an international, open-priced, tender offer. The public will pay for the shares in two instalments. The size of the first will be

known in advance, but the second will be determined by the strike price established in the international offer. Although the public will not know what the shares will cost in total before applying, a range of values will be given in the prospectus. The public will enjoy a discount on the price paid by institutions. City analysts were quick to point out that yesterday's announcement omitted to disclose key facts, including what proportion of Railtrack shares would be sold, the capital structure of the company, and the shares' price range. One stockbroker said last night that the Government

would have to price the shares cheaply to provide investors with a cushion below the political risk of buying the shares. However, he added that Labour faced a "tricky task" if it was set on taking Railtrack back into public ownership without alienating small investors. And an analyst said the Government would be keener to ensure a successful flotation — by pricing the shares cheaply — than to risk public failure. The priority was not revenue-raising, but to inject commercialisation into the industry and end subsidies costing £1 billion a year for the next five years.

## Mood of buyers shows rate cut needed as orders dry up

**I**NFLATIONARY pressures in manufacturing industry have faded away as firms have cut prices to attract new orders, according to a survey released yesterday. In a snapshot that raised the City's hopes of an early cut in interest rates, the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply said factories and suppliers last year on a downturn note. The organisation's purchasing managers' index (PMI) found only a marginal recovery in December from the poor November showing, with order books drying up and firms trying to get rid of excess stocks. Peter Thompson, director-general of the institute, said: "This is rather sobering news. Productivity is healthy, but demand is static as many firms use existing stocks to meet sales. As far as order books are concerned, manufacturers seem to have had a quiet Christmas." The index is based on questions put to purchasing managers, who buy parts and raw materials for industry. Read-

## Airbus loses ground in jet set

**M**ARK MILNER on developments in fight for the skies with rival Boeing. Airbus Industrie, the European manufacturer of big commercial jets, pulled in record revenues last year but new orders fell 15 per cent to 106 aircraft, which leaves the company trailing well behind its main rival, Boeing. Turnover in 1995 amounted to \$9.6 billion (£6.2 billion) compared with \$8.5 billion the previous year, according to Airbus, a consortium of British Aerospace, Deutsche Aerospace and Spain's Casa. In recent years Boeing has traditionally outsold Airbus on a ratio of around two-to-one. But, in 1994, Airbus narrowly outstripped Boeing in the race for new orders, taking some 47.7 per cent of the market for large commercial jets, against the US

group's 45.8 per cent. That was the first time any other manufacturer had outsold Boeing since the 1950s, though the result was regarded in some quarters as a fluke. Boeing has yet to release definitive final figures for new orders last year, but the total will be well ahead of the European group's performance. Latest figures from the US group show orders to late December amounting to 261 jetliners. Airbus has declared that it is aiming to take 50 per cent of the market by the end of the decade and yesterday's results are unlikely to be seen as a severe blow to its ambitions. One year's results in an industry where products have a 25 to 30-year life cycle is not enough to be conclusive, according to Chris Avery, an aerospace analyst at Paribas Capital Markets. "I don't think this is going to be a long-term disappointment."

An Airbus spokesman commented: "People are conscious that we are beginning to come out of the trough. Obviously, it would have been nice to do even better, but I don't think the figures were that bad. We would classify them as somewhere in the middle," he said. Mr Avery expected the rivalry between Airbus and Boeing to remain fiercely competitive. "I think one of the most interesting things will be Airbus's reaction if Boeing stretches its 747 [aircraft] again. That would keep Boeing clear in the niche market for very large aircraft," he said. Airbus deliveries totalled 124 last year and the group said the increase in turnover reflected a larger proportion of the new generation A330/A340 wide bodied jets. At the end of the year Airbus had an order book of some 578 aircraft, worth around \$46.4 billion. The group was able to get the new year off to a flying start by announcing that it had won a \$580 million order from Gatz Capital Corporation for its A321 aircraft.

## Westinghouse sells defence arm for £2.3bn

**J**ONATHAN FREEDLAND in Washington. THE broadcasting and electronics giant Westinghouse is selling off its defence arm to the Merritop Grumman Corporation for \$3.6 billion (£2.3 billion), in a move that accelerates the reshaping of both the US media and defence industries. Westinghouse said yesterday it was making the sale to fund its controversial purchase of the CBS network, which set it back \$5.4 billion last August. The conglomerate — best known for fridges and household appliances — has had to sell off several holdings to fund its move into US network television. In December, Westinghouse sold the Kroll Group, its office furniture-making division, for \$585 million. Westinghouse's Electronics Systems Group, based in Maryland, employs 14,000 workers and its chief products are air- and ground-based defence radar systems, anti-submarine systems and air-traffic control technology.

## London takes tip from US as shares surge to new high

**P**AUL MURPHY. THE CITY turned a blind eye to the troubles besetting John Major's Government yesterday, and share prices were pushed to an all-time peak in response to another surge in US stock prices. The move, triggered by speculation that an end to the stand-off between the Republican Congress and President Bill Clinton over the American budget deficit is now in sight, echoes across financial markets around the world. Following the surprise cut in American interest rates a week before Christmas, there are now hopes that US borrowing costs will fall further at the end of this month. In London, the FTSE 100 index of top British companies jumped 27.7 points, bursting through the 3700 level for the first time to close at 3715.6. After jumping 60 points on Tuesday — the biggest one-day gain in seven months — America's premier share index, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, had its advanced another 20 points at lunchtime yesterday. Equity strategists in London are banking on another cut in British interest rates, following on from the quarter point cut to 6½ per cent in December. While the defection of Tory MP Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats has rattled nerves in the City, the expectation of another rate cut and further takeover bids has delayed the process of "pricing in" the possibility of a general election before the autumn. In Germany, the DAX index closed 44.36 points higher at a new closing high of 2339.22.

TOURIST RATES — BANK GILLS

Australia 2.02	France 7.36	Italy 2.382	Singapore 2.15
Austria 1.51	Germany 2.1600	Malta 0.5375	South Africa 4.475
Belgium 44.40	Greece 368.00	Netherlands 2.4250	Spain 192.00
Canada 2.05	Hong Kong 11.81	New Zealand 2.31	Sweden 10.10
Cyprus 0.6950	India 54.79	Norway 9.50	Switzerland 1.73
Denmark 6.41	Ireland 0.94	Portugal 228.00	Turkey 90.310
Finland 6.67	Israel 4.86	Saudi Arabia 5.80	USA 1.5175

Supplied by Reuters Data (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)

## Training ship will carry aid

PLANS have been completed for the building of Britain's largest registered sailing vessel which will carry aid to Third World countries and return with goods for sale in Europe.

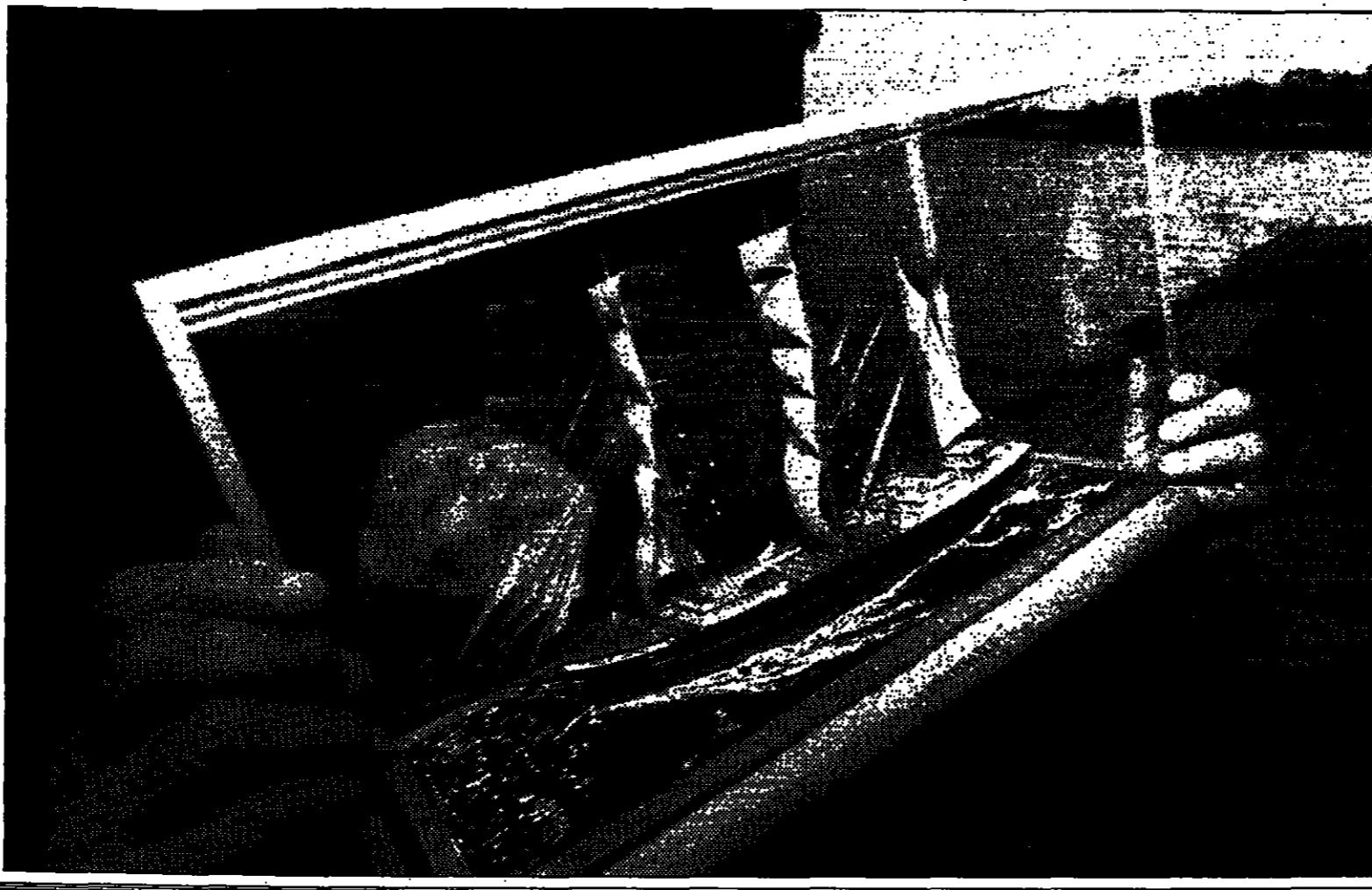
The Renaissance, the first such vessel to be built in the UK for 75 years, will be crewed for six months each year by 120 youngsters in a training programme for those deemed to be at risk or who have been in care.

British Telecom has given £66,000 to fund the project's initial stages.

The Renaissance, to be based at Devonport, has been designed by Mike Willoughby, marine services director of the Renaissance Maritime Charitable Trust.

Captain Willoughby is pictured with a model of the ship at Devonport.

PHOTOGRAPH: STEWART GOLDSTEIN



Indian penalty could wipe out firm • British conglomerate set to prosper from affiliate's ill health

## £146m tax evasion fine threatens BAT partner

**Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi**

A CRIPPLING fine of 8 billion rupees (£146.5 million) for evading excise duty is threatening the future of BAT's Indian tobacco affiliate, ITC.

The fine is the largest ever imposed on an Indian firm, and is part of a drive against tax evasion by cigarette companies.

"ITC's entire net worth will be wiped out," if it is actually made to pay, said VV Sivakumar, a research manager with Crosby in Bombay.

ITC's net worth was estimated at 8.5 billion rupees in March last year. Mr Sivakumar said he expected ITC would eventually be asked to pay a much smaller amount following an appeal.

The fine by the excise commissioner caps a turbulent year for the Indian tobacco corporation, which is 31.8 per cent owned by BAT.

A long-running battle by the British conglomerate to take management control at ITC failed last month when local institutional shareholders rejected BAT's candidate for chairman and instead promoted Yogesh Deveshwar, the 48-year-old vice-president to the top post.

Mr Deveshwar, who took over on New Year's Day, said the firm still had to decide what course to take. However, a spokesman for ITC said the firm would definitely appeal to the customs tribunal.

In addition to his order that ITC pay back taxes, the excise commissioner imposed a penalty of 740 million rupees on ITC and seven firms making cigarettes for it, and fined six former ITC directors a total of 31.5 million rupees.

"Directors' facing personal fines were also expected to appeal," he said. "We would like to say that ITC has never transgressed the law," executives at the company's headquarters in Calcutta said.

Indian government lawyers

said that ITC would normally be required to deposit the sum until the appeal could be heard, although it could apply for a waiver. The company has three months to appeal against the order. A BAT spokesman in New Delhi said last night that there would be no decision on whether to bail out its recalcitrant Indian affiliate until it was officially informed of the ruling.

Mr Deveshwar is expected to discuss what price BAT might exact for a rescue operation during a scheduled visit to London next week.

The ruling comes at a time when ITC executives were trying to forest a bruising confrontation with BAT in which the Indian firm had been accused of financial irregularities. "It's not something that's just cropped up. This is just another reason why they felt systems could be better in ITC," a BAT spokeswoman said.

Tuesday's ruling follows nearly nine years of legal battles between ITC and the

finance ministry in which the tobacco firm appealed to the Supreme Court to have the charges thrown out.

The dispute arises from alleged short payment of excise duty between 1983 and 1987.

M Chandrasekaran, the additional solicitor-general who acted for India's finance ministry, said the case centred on a discrepancy between the stated price of cigarettes and the price at which they were eventually sold.

Vendors were instructed to sell ITC-branded cigarettes at higher prices than those printed on the packet, and the firm did not pay excise on the difference.

"The case of the government was that they printed a price on the packet which was in fact not the price at which it was being sold or was capable of being sold. It has been found by the adjudicator that they had not paid full duty and duty has been imposed on the basis of the difference between the two prices," he said.

## National pride saw off outsider, says SUZANNE GOLDENBERG

MISFORTUNE at ITC could be to BAT's gain in its campaign to increase its stake in the Indian firm and assert more operational control.

In September last year, BAT engineered the premature exit of the flamboyant ITC chairman, Krishan Lal Chugh after a boardroom struggle in which British executives brought in auditors to accuse the Indian firm of financial irregularities. BAT later withdrew the charges.

It was thwarted in its efforts to split the post of chairman into executive and non-executive positions, and to restructure the ITC board. The selection of the next ITC chairman became a matter of

national pride and Indian financial institutions, which hold a 38 per cent share of the firm against BAT's 31.8 per cent, forced through the appointment of Yogesh Deveshwar.

This was arrived at without a ballot after a two-day stand-off between BAT board representatives and Indian financial institutions. It was seen as a humiliation for BAT, which had been lobbying for an external candidate. Mr Deveshwar, aged 48, has been with ITC for nearly 30 years.

BAT reconciled itself to defeat because Mr Deveshwar was said to enjoy good contacts at India's finance ministry.

The struggle centred on BAT's efforts to increase its stake in ITC to 51 per cent by installing its own candidate as chairman. It was also hoping to broaden control over ITC's more lucrative tobacco operations while spinning off its financial services, hotel and agriculture business into separate companies.

## Corporate bruisers start to fight back

Outlook '96/Lisa Buckingham on increasing tension in boardroom politics

THE corporate governance debate could hardly be more finely balanced. Flushed with their success at the British Gas annual meeting last year and armed with the new checklist recommended by Sir Richard Greenbury, independent shareholders and their representative groups could be forgiven for feeling they have it within their power to excise rot in the boardroom.

The "Gas alliance" struck between small shareholders and bodies such as Pensions Investment Research Consultants — which represents numerous local authority funds — appears to suggest that, on some issues at least, individuals and those backed by billions of pounds can find common ground.

But, while the backing of the mighty institutional investors remains crucial for individual shareholder groups seeking to implement change at the annual meeting, the last year has shown that powerful alternatives exist.

Take Shell's climbdown over the Brent Spar. There, investors concerned about wider governance issues such as a company's approach to the environment, were given a demonstration of how effective it could be to link up with a potent green movement.

There are influences seeking to roll back some of the corporate governance gains of recent years and wrap up the debate before it becomes any more onerous for business. The Stock Exchange and CBI attempted to keep the remit of the Cadbury 2 committee under Sir Ronnie Hampel's chairmanship as narrow as possible.

Bruised by the executive pay controversy which led to the formation of the Greenbury committee and stung by recommendations from the Marks & Spencer chairman which were more demanding than expected, these two organisations made it clear that they did not want any re-examination of "big issues".

Indeed, members of the Greenbury committee have warned that forces within the City are attempting to derail

some of its proposals, particularly those relating to the reporting of executive pension payments which — in the first year at least — are expected to produce telephone-number packages for many FTSE-100 directors.

Sir Ronnie, chairman of ICI, is no one's stooge and stood out for an independently-minded group of executives prepared to join him on Cadbury 2. He has said that this group will look at all corporate governance issues and hopes to issue a consultative paper before making final recommendations.

Sir Ronnie is not driven by a zeal to redefine the composition and workings of Britain's boardrooms as was his predecessor, Sir Adrian Cadbury. Nor does he appear keen to take on some of the less mainstream issues raised under the title Tomorrow's Company by the Royal Society for Arts, which looked at corporate relations with employees, suppliers and the community as well as with shareholders.

But, by ruling nothing out, Sir Ronnie can rule everything in. Even if he does not have the stomach for another big overhaul, he can try to ensure that what already exists works as well as possible.

This means looking more closely at the role of institutional investors and asking if they could and should be more active. Compulsory voting for big fund managers is a fraught issue which is likely to come into focus as a potential Labour government looms larger.

The decisions by the rail, post and BT pension funds to publish voting guidelines could provide a bridge. Sets of rules have the merit of forcing funds to think about their policies before they publish and then sticking to them once they are in the open. Going public with the common insurance company policy of endorsing the current management unless there are overwhelming reasons not to, simply invites questions.

Few contentious corporate governance issues slot nicely into a given set of guidelines. But fund managers are paid highly to make judgments on management strategy and efficiency. In their role as guardians of the Cadbury and Greenbury codes, they must now prepare to stand up and be counted.

Tomorrow's Drugs industry

## Underside

Pauline Springett

BAFFLED by Byzantine financial services regulations? Why not splash out £65 on a book by City solicitor Simon Morris — Financial Services: Regulating Investment Business. Mr Morris's firm, Cameron Markby Hewitt describes it as "the only book currently available to include straightforward information" on City enforcement, and adds that it "clarifies financial services regulation". Easier for clarification on, say, unit-trust marketing, the reader can turn to page 185 and learn: "76(2) sub-section (1) above shall not apply if the advertisement is issued to or the person mentioned in paragraph (b) of that subsection is: (a) an authorised person". Clear?



something we have readily available," but offered to fax the information, along with an invoice. For a mere £138 a month plus VAT, customers can make 12 calls a month for weather statistics. A £400 charge is made for more than 12 enquiries. It might be cheaper to step outside the door.

THE foyer of brokers UBS, at Broadgate, is sporting an imaginative and a bit disorienting one wall are photographs of employees taken at the firm's bash at the Grosvenor House Hotel. They show some of the City's top folk, pink-checked and dressed to the nines. Copies are a cool £8 each but Underside yesterday saw no rush to order — perhaps the victims were just being bashful.

THOSE tax wallahs are taking the do-it-yourself philosophy behind self-assessment too far. Yesterday the Chartered Institute of Taxation began its 1996 publicity offensive with a press release of one-tenth of a line, saying the institute had submitted its comments on public access to the VAT register. No word of what those comments were. Nor who they had been submitted to. A self-assessed press release?

NORD/LB, Germany's 10th largest bank, has sent us a glossy tome celebrating its 25th anniversary. Beautifully bound, exquisitely photographed and clearly having cost a packet, it contains useful nuggets such as "when dealing with large sums, fractions of a percentage point could mean the difference between profit and loss." Money well spent, we say.

## News in brief

### Engineer jailed for £1.6m bribes

A DUTCH marine engineer on a £100,000 salary started a three-year jail sentence yesterday after admitting taking £1.6 million in bribes from a Singapore-based shipyard. The Serious Fraud Office said Cornelis Van der Horst, 54, took bribes to favour Keppel Shipyard during the bidding process for ship repair contracts worth £1.6 million in Britain for Petroleum Shipping Ltd. PSL, which moved to Southampton in September 1994, manages the Exxon Corporation's fleet of tankers and the SFO said in the four years to 1995 every repair contract was awarded to Keppel. The 27th consecutive ship provoked a PSL internal inquiry which led to a police investigation. Van der Horst pleaded guilty at Southampton Crown Court to three specimen charges of corruption. — Sarah Ryke

### Banks attacked on Tessa

BANKS have given savers a raw deal on Tessa savings accounts, paying out an average £300 less than a typical building society, according to the Consumers' Association magazine Which? The consumer watchdog claimed that the five biggest banks, Abbey National, NatWest, Barclays, Lloyds and Midland — all paid a lower return than the average Tessa tax-exempt savings account. Bank of Scotland, Barclays, Clydesdale, First Direct, Lloyds and Midland all have Tessa savers among the Which? 10 worst performers. The Bradford & Bingley and Nationwide building societies were branded as offering the worst buys. A Nationwide spokesman said its rates were in line with those of its competitors, and the Bradford & Bingley maintained it topped most other independent best-buy tables. — Teresa Hunter

### Polish telecoms claim

FRANCE Telecom has launched a \$60 million (£325 million) claim for compensation from the Polish government, claiming the country's telecommunications ministry is denying it the right to a mobile telephone licence in breach of a four-year-old agreement. The French company said yesterday that it had taken its case to the international Court at the Hague.

The move follows a similar initiative by Ameritech, France Telecom's US partner in the Polish company, Centertel. Ameritech is also claiming \$1.5 billion from the Polish government. Government officials deny Centertel was promised a licence and argue the group must bid for one of two mobile phone licences which have been put up for tender. — Mark Milner

### Dresdner tax arrests

GERMAN police yesterday arrested two officials from Dresdner Bank in Koblenz on suspicion of a betting tax evasion. Dresdner said the arrests were linked with a special case and were not part of a wider tax inquiry. "It is totally different from the other cases examined by tax investigators in our bank and therefore cannot be compared with them," a spokesman said.

German banks have come under fire since the 1994 introduction of a 30 per cent withholding tax on interest income provoked an exodus of hundreds of billions of marks to Luxembourg. Moving funds abroad to avoid tax is not illegal, but failing to report interest income is. — Mark Milner

### Rope maker in a knot

SEAROS in Bridon fell 14.5p to 104.5p yesterday after the wire and rope maker issued a profits warning. It said its 1995 profit would be lower than the previous year's £10.1 million, partly due to reduced profitability in the US and losses at its Australian subsidiary.

Bridon, which intends to raise its final dividend by 10 per cent, said the group's investment programme and new production methods would have an impact in 1996. — Pauline Springett

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The following Gross Interest Rates apply with effect from 5th January 1996	
MINISTER 90	5.00%
MINISTER SPIRE	5.75%
£40,000+	5.25%
£20,000+	5.00%
£5,000+	4.90%
£1,000+	4.50%
<b>MINISTER MONTHLY</b>	
£40,000+	5.75%
£20,000+	5.25%
£5,000+	4.50%
<b>BULLION SHARES</b>	
THREE YEAR FIXED TERM	4.90%
MONTHLY CONTRACT SHARES	1.00%
FIVE YEAR FIXED TERM	1.00%
EXTRA ORDINARY SHARES	4.25%

\*The Gross Rate is the contractual rate of interest payable on deposits and is subject to the effect of the appropriate rate of tax. \*Based on new investments.

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سكنا من الامل

Racing

Dublin Flyer out of King George

Graham Rock
THE horse might have come in time to save the rearranged King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Sandown on Saturday...

Barton Bank, while Ladbrokes are opposing Master Oats at 11-2.
Coral have Merry Gale (confirmed a definite runner) at identical odds...

times, winning once, and being placed in the remainder.
He has always looked the sort to do better over fences, and made a favourable impression on his chasing debut...



Winning leap... David Bridgwater takes the final flight on Valiant Tusk on the way to victory in yesterday's Godstone Selling Hurdle at Lingfield

Rugby League
Warrington look to Cullen for leadership

Paul Fitzpatrick
THE mantle of Warrington club captain has fallen to Paul Cullen; as the game's most articulate and intelligent players he should wear it well.
Cullen, now 32, used to be one of the game's firebrands, burning on one of the shortest fuses in the business...

Nottingham runners and riders with form guide

Table listing race details for Nottingham, including race names, times, and lists of runners with their respective odds and trainers.

Lingfield (A.W. Flat)

Table listing race details for Lingfield (A.W. Flat), including race names, times, and lists of runners with their respective odds and trainers.

Sedgefield

Table listing race details for Sedgefield, including race names, times, and lists of runners with their respective odds and trainers.

Blinkered today for the first time: LINGFIELD: 1.00 Erling; 1.30 Golden Punch, Satis; NOTTINGHAM: 1.20 Damas; SEDGEFIELD: 1.10 Orchidama.

RACELINE FULL RESULTS SERVICE 0891 163163. A promotional banner for a racing results service.

Soccer

David Lacey on the latest brainstorm from Sepp Blatter's Fifa think-tank: wider goals, higher crossbars and a smaller ball

Don't move the goalposts

NEWS that Fifa intends pressing ahead with its bizarre plan to make the goals bigger will have come as a surprise to Bolton Wanderers, who believed the Premier League was the pioneer in this field.

Collymore and Fowler for Liverpool. Shearer for Blackburn. Spencer for Chelsea. Ginoia for Newcastle and Wright for Aston Villa has to be set a steepening decline in defensive standards.

bing of David Seaman in last season's European Cup Winners' Cup final should be exquisite rarities, not the norm. Make the goals bigger in 1998 and by the turn of the century the height of the average forward will approach that of Kevin Francis, Birmingham's 6ft 7in striker.

form of Subbuteo. Both ideas should be left on the table. As if modern defenders did not have enough problems, what with restrictions on passing back to the goalkeeper, an easing in the interpretation of offside, the outlawing of the challenge from behind and the erosion of the referee's discretion on questions of intent.

already suffered an acute attack of the Cratchits. At least Manchester United, beaten 4-1 at Tottenham on Monday, could lead the absence of Bruce, Pallister and Irwin, together with Schmeichel's pre-match calf injury, in mitigation — as well as the total unsuitability of William Prunier at centre-back when faced with Armstrong's fleetness of foot and Sheeringham's speed of thought.

Cottee for West Ham — is making matches watchable if not always winnable. Newcastle United represent the best of both worlds and, if precedent is anything to go by, will eventually bring the league title to St James' Park for the first time since 1927.

HALF-TIMES

Table with 3 columns: New Year leaders, Lead, Champions. Lists top teams and their goals for various seasons.

Fifa boss under rival fire

Ian Ross and Robert Pryce

JOAO HAVELANGE came under attack from Lennart Johansson again yesterday as the two men continued to divide the footballing world.



Free man... Bruce Grobbelaar finds admirers at Southampton court yesterday after being remanded for a committal hearing on match-rigging charges

"I do not want to speculate about Havelange's motives. I can merely state that he, through his statement, has flagrantly disregarded the rules. His move is an act of desperation."

The president of the Confederation of African Football Isa Hayatou travelled to Cameroon on Tuesday to open talks with Nigerian officials. "If Nigeria does not participate in the African Nations Cup it risks a six-year suspension," he said yesterday.

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Results section containing soccer, chess, tennis, and darts results. Soccer includes Premier League, Championship, and international matches.

Fixtures section containing soccer, snooker, and ice hockey fixtures. Soccer includes Premier League, Championship, and international matches.

Millichip to retire SIR BERT MILLICHIP yesterday confirmed he will step down from the post of Football Association chairman in the summer.

Foreign limit is lifted in FA Cup The FA Cup has followed the Premiership in sweeping away restrictions on European Union players in the wake of the Bosman judgment.

FA Cup profile Divisions run deep down by the Solent THE domestic game is home to many local derbies, yet one of the most fiercely contested is a match which, because the combatants have long inhabited different divisions, rarely gets played.

Foreign limit is lifted in FA Cup The FA Cup has followed the Premiership in sweeping away restrictions on European Union players in the wake of the Bosman judgment.

Foreign limit is lifted in FA Cup The FA Cup has followed the Premiership in sweeping away restrictions on European Union players in the wake of the Bosman judgment.

Sport in brief Hockey Sean Kerly, Britain's match-winner in their Olympic gold medal side of 1988, is to return to National League action after an absence of three seasons.

Athletics The British Athletic Federation has confirmed a four-year ban on shot putter Guy Marshall for steroid use.



Cricket

Hamlet has need of the gravedigger

Matthew Engel in Cape Town sees the last act threaten to turn bloody

THE beauty of a five-Test series is that it retains the structure of the Shakespearean drama. The weirdness of this series is that we reached Act Five and absolutely damn all had happened: Act Two was a bit spicy but Acts One and Three were intermissions and Act Four mostly longueurs.

who is also present, would be an alternative possibility. Nothing in cricket is so demoralising as a fielding side that has been out of its mind most especially in a low-scoring game. One can bear being torn apart by a Richards or a Lara. But being turned into Charlies by a No. 11 is ghastly and England have been caught this way twice in the series.

Deeply flawed cricket teams are always vulnerable to this kind of thing. It is also characteristic of teams coached by Bob Woolmer that the second half of the order often bat better than the first half. Warwickshire are just the same.

From then on England's cricket grew ragged, as it had been in the morning. And by the end, when Adams was square-driving Fraser as if he were Walter Hammond re-incarnated, the tension had vanished. One had to laugh, really. It was the only way to avoid bursting into tears.

West Indies off the mark

OTTIS GIBSON, with five for 45, helped West Indies finally break their through-going all the little things so very well: Martin and Fraser strangling the innings, the fielders picking up everything. But there is no margin for error in English cricket because the team is still not good enough. And as soon as anything goes wrong, everything is likely to go wrong.

The Oval 1994 is not that long ago and South Africa's batsmen are still scared of Devon Malcolm. At any rate they are scared of the memory of Devon Malcolm, the man Nelson Mandela christened The Destroyer. It is a fading memory now.



On the battlements... Dave Richardson haunted England throughout the afternoon

PHOTOGRAPH: ADL BRADLOW

The problem was not that he bowled especially badly. There was just no menace there. He ran up with the air of a man apologising to the batsmen for past wrongs, instead of trying to remind them. Miracles aside, it looks like the end of one era, anyway.

This remains a very puzzling Test match, right down to Brian McMillan's failure to when he was run out (though that at least fits with the normal behaviour of South African drivers).

One Capetonian knew South Africa were going to be all right yesterday because, when he woke up, there was no cloud on the mountain. Indeed, there was not a cloud to be seen all day - just a little afternoon heat haze and the plumes of smoke from the brewery. So there was not much chance of the ball swinging.

Last night another change in the weather was forecast: no rain but cooler. If batting conditions do deteriorate, England might plunge to defeat very quickly, leaving the hordes of spectators, already turning ozone-hole beetroot, plenty of time for sunbathing and chuntering. In the meantime they are indulging in the familiar British pastime of straw-clutching.

Rugby Union

Cobner leads the shortlist for top Wales post

THE former Wales captain and flanker Terry Cobner is expected to be named today as the Welsh Rugby Union's first director of rugby, a post with an annual salary in excess of £50,000. Cobner, who won 19 caps between 1974 and 1976, was one of eight short-listed candidates interviewed last month.

Others included the former Wales coach Tony Gray, Paul Thorburn, who captained Wales earlier this decade, John Bevan, who played on the wing for Wales and the Lions before turning professional with Warrington, and Dick Marks, the rugby director of the Australian Institute of Sport.

The rugby director will work in tandem with the Wales coach Kevin Bowring. He started his £40,000 a year job. While Bowring will be in charge of all the national squads Wales run at senior level, the rugby director will be expected to establish a Welsh style of play to be adopted by teams from the Under-18s upwards.

Cobner, a master at Oundle School, coached the Welsh Exiles for four years until this season and, in the 1980s, was the assistant coach of Wales under the late fly-half John Bevan.

Meanwhile, the current Wales fly-half Neil Jenkins was ruled out for at least three weeks with a broken collarbone. He will miss the international against Italy on January 16 and is doubtful for Wales's Five Nations opener against England on February 3.

Drut, who in October set up an investigation into exclusive contracts awarded to France's television channels, said his inspectors' report showed punishable offences may have occurred. The private channel TF1 is reported to have made a higher bid, rejected by the federation, for the rights to cover domestic rugby and France's Five Nations games.

Boxing

Cowdell squares up to board

John Duncan

A FEW rounds of inter-ecine strife looked on the cards last night with a leading small-hall promoter calling a meeting of licensed promoters, managers and boxers in Dudley at which he will marshal opposition to the British Boxing Board of Control's new safety recommendations.

Cowdell, the former double British and European champion, has called the meeting for January 21 at the Castle Hill Casino and has invited every BBBC licensee-holder. He wants to force the board into calling an extraordinary general meeting to discuss the new measures, but the January meeting is likely to turn into a wider attack on the way it governs the sport.

Cowdell is unhappy at recent safety recommendations, devised by a panel of independent medical experts and circulated by the board after the deaths in the ring of Bradley Stone and James Murray. Key points include compulsory MRI brain scans for boxers, new rules on weigh-in times and an extension (to 45 days) of the stand-down period for boxers knocked out or stopped.

particularly by an independent panel who sat for a long time looking at boxing. "If Mr Cowdell is saying that the board are forcing this on them, then he is wrong. What we have done is put the recommendations out as a consultation paper to area councils and asked them to discuss and debate and let the board know what they feel."

Frank Warren, one of the country's leading promoters, also strongly criticised Cowdell's action. "I think Pat is very misguided," said Warren. "We've had a lot of tragedies in the ring recently, the board have got a good working party together, of neurosurgeons and top doctors, to see how we can improve safety. If we can't take notice of those guys and implement what they are asking us to do to safeguard boxers, then we can't expect their support and, without their support, there won't be any boxing."

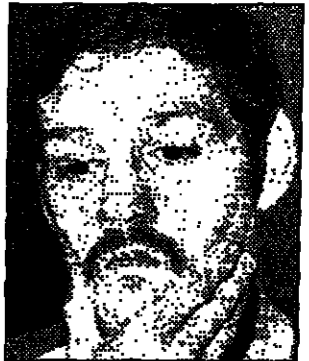
However, Cowdell may have tapped into a growing fear among smaller operators about the cost and effect of the changes. "If you put on a show at Dudley Town Hall, then the same goes on as at Wembley," said Billy Aird, a small-hall trainer and manager. "That's not right. Without the likes of Mr Cowdell and people like me, the big-time boxers would never have got started off - yet we are being the worst affected by all this."

Warren, whose company have promised a trust fund to help finance scans for all boxers, rejected that argument too. "Small-hall boxing died years ago," he said, "like music hall died before it. What they have to remember is that a punch doesn't discriminate between the small halls and the big arenas and boxers deserve the same protection wherever they fight."

"You have to move with the times. The [BBBC] regime now are well aware of the pressures to ban boxing and the need to be flexible. Pat is just helping the anti-boxing brigade with this."

Morris concluded: "If what he's saying is that he doesn't want any more medicals than he had to have when he was boxing, well, I'm sorry, the sport has moved on."

Gritty as ever, the old-style battler from the Midlands



Cowdell... new challenge

PAT COWDELL is an unlikely revolutionary. Like many small-hall promoters the unassuming Midlander is a former boxer, and a good one. He held British and European titles at featherweight and super-featherweight, adding the prized Lonsdale Belt to a clutch of amateur trophies including an Olympic bronze and Commonwealth gold medal.

ers at any weight. Nelson, indeed, recently won another world title at 37.

Cowdell retired in 1988 with a record of 36 wins in 42 bouts - all but a handful of them at championship level - after losing in eight rounds to the Welsh prospect Floyd Havard. That stoppage was enough to convince him there were easier ways to make a living. Whether he still thinks so is debatable.

In 1991 he went to Texas and went 15 rounds with Mexico's formidable Salvador Sanchez in an unsuccessful challenge for the world title. It is his misfortune, though, to be best remembered for a flaring flamboyant types the sort of headcase he is now attempting to deliver to his administrative masters at Jack Peterson House in London.

He was an upright technician of the old school, his educated jab giving more flamboyant types the sort of headache he is now attempting to deliver to his administrative masters at Jack Peterson House in London.

In 1991 he went to Texas and went 15 rounds with Mexico's formidable Salvador Sanchez in an unsuccessful challenge for the world title. It is his misfortune, though, to be best remembered for a flaring flamboyant types the sort of headcase he is now attempting to deliver to his administrative masters at Jack Peterson House in London.

After his 6-3, 6-2 victory Rusedski, seeded seventh in Adelaide, said he was pleased with his game - "my serving was good" - but that he was trying to vary his approach.

Even though Rusedski's service is his biggest weapon, he admitted: "I'm trying to play smarter, not go so much for the big serve every time. I'm trying to mix things up a little more."

Kafelnikov, a big server in his own right, avenged last year's defeat by Mark Woodford in beating the Australian left-hander 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 in a struggle lasting 1 hour 45 minutes.

Sheila Edberg's last year on tour started on a losing note when he went down to his old adversary Boris Becker 6-2, 7-5 in the first round of the Qatar Open.

In Perth Martin Sinner saved three match points in the second set before beating Mark Philippoussis 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 as Germany ended the host nation's hopes in the Hopman Cup mixed team event.

Sinner's triumph gave the trophy holders an unassailable 2-0 lead. The Australians have lost their two ties. Croatia, top seeds, enjoyed their second victory as they overcame the United States 2-1.

Snooker

High ambition keeps Ebdon in full flow

PETER EBDON swept past Tony Drago 5-3 in the first round of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge at Birmingham's International Convention Centre yesterday and declared that "would be disappointed if 1996 isn't the year when I become the man to beat".

Beaten 10-3 for the UK title last month by Stephen Hendry, the runaway World No. 1, he said: "I've never give in. My actual level of snooker has to improve to seriously challenge him."

Tennis

Seles targets Wimbledon

David Irvine

MONICA SELES, who has not played since losing the US Open final to Steffi Graf four months ago, plans to compete in all four Grand Slam tournaments in 1996 with Wimbledon, the only major event she has never won, as her chief priority.

she was stabbed by a spectator in April 1995 at her Paris Open quarter-finals of the Australian Open after ankle surgery, is likely to return.

Most of Seles' planned appearances are in the United States, although she will be in Tokyo immediately after Melbourne and plans to defend her Canadian Open title at Montreal in the summer.

Sailing

Brewster back in business and ready to take on the world again

SAMANTHA BREWSTER started a new attempt to become the first woman to sail solo east-to-west around the world. She left the Brazilian port of Santos after her restart had secured in late October but encountered trouble after 35 days when a spinnaker halyard which was ripped off its mounting.

After radio consultation with her shore support crew she diverted to Santos where the damage was confirmed to be irreparable

afloat. Although members of the shore support crew helped Brewster repair the 85ft mast, the detour invalidated her record attempt.

During the month-long stopover the yacht was completely re-stocked in preparation for the circumnavigation and for the whole record attempt to be reconsidered.



Seles... better serve

played in 1995 she confounded the pundits (and herself), not only by picking up exactly where she left off in 1993 but by showing she had acquired a more telling serve.

Rusedski up against Kafelnikov

GREG RUSEDSKI faces the top seed and world No. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open in Adelaide.

The British No. 1's confrontation with the formidable Russian was reward for his convincing elimination of Australia's Scott Draper in the second round.

After his 6-3, 6-2 victory Rusedski, seeded seventh in Adelaide, said he was pleased with his game - "my serving was good" - but that he was trying to vary his approach.

Even though Rusedski's service is his biggest weapon, he admitted: "I'm trying to play smarter, not go so much for the big serve every time. I'm trying to mix things up a little more."

Kafelnikov, a big server in his own right, avenged last year's defeat by Mark Woodford in beating the Australian left-hander 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 in a struggle lasting 1 hour 45 minutes.

Ice Hockey

Sheffield suffer sin and din

Vic Batchelder

JOHN GRIFFITH was a happy man. "I'm surprised the roof's still on," said Humberstone Hawks coach after a capacity crowd of 2,200 at the Humberstone Ice Arena had cheered his side to an 8-3 win over Sheffield Steelers.

hand. So do third-placed Nottingham Panthers (27 points) whom Steelers visit on Saturday. Humberstone are fourth with 22 points from 19 games.

Cricket

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Ign limits in FAC

Dublin Flyer takes a dive, page 13

South Coast showdown, page 14

Another outing for the Old Firm, page 14

Bloody nose for boxing safety, page 15

# SportsGuardian

LAST-WICKET STAND SWINGS SERIES BACK TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA

## England pay for Atherton blunder

Mike Selvey in Cape Town

IN THE course of a Test series a captain will be called upon to make thousands of decisions. Most are of insignificant importance, a few have a more direct impact on proceedings. Just occasionally, though, comes one on which can hinge not only a session or even a match but the outcome of the series.

Late yesterday afternoon Mike Atherton, so often the cornerstone of the England side, made a mistake that by this evening will probably have cost England this match and with it the series. Like the bounty hunter who returned to fry to nail the outlaw Josey Wales, it was something he had to do but it may haunt him for the rest of his career.

Atherton's blunder, as it is sure to become known, was in

the bowler he chose to take the second new ball with his most prolific wicket-taker Dominic Cork in an attempt to mop up the final two South African wickets.

He might have opted for Peter Martin, who had bowled heroically on a searingly hot afternoon to apply such a tourniquet that the flow of runs had dried to a trickle; or Angus Fraser who had rediscovered some of his rhythm and with it his parsimony.

Instead, as many captains — including, if they were honest, hundreds of amateur theorists in the stands — would have done, he handed the ball to his fastest bowler Devon Malcolm in the not unreasonable belief that tail-enders roll over and die.

Allan Donald duly did, to the Cork-Russell combination, giving the England wicketkeeper his 27th victim of an abbreviated series and taking him to within a single dismissal of Rod Marsh's all-time series record. That reduced South Africa, who had begun the day at 44 for two, to 171 for nine, an 18-run lead that remained slender even on such a helpful pitch.

South Africa, for all their packed batting side, were on the rack and England, buoyant, knew that a swift *coup de grace* and one, just one, major innings and the game could be theirs.

Instead the next hour turned serious drama to abject farce as Dave Richardson, Russell's counterpart, and Paul Adams, an 18-year-old in only his second Test, reduced Malcolm to rubble, and with it the England effort. By the time Hick snuffed Adams at second slip to give Martin his third wicket, this unlikely pair had taken the score to 244, adding 73 for the last wicket, the highest partnership of the match. There was an unbeaten 54 to Richardson, his second half-century in



Vital breakthrough... Allan Donald celebrates the priceless wicket of Mike Atherton

PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE HEWITT

successive Tests and, to the utter delight of the packed crowd, 29 from Adams.

A lead of 91, culled from nowhere, was beyond the wildest dreams of even the most optimistic South African. It reversed the whole tone of the day, leaving England 30 minutes, or seven torrid overs, from Donald and Pollock — both with boilers stoked and steaming — before the close. It was Donald, having a magnificent game with the ball, who in his third over had Atherton caught at the wicket, fencing wearily. There is no more focused cricketer than the England

captain but perhaps the preceding events had preyed even on his mind.

It was left to Stewart and the nightwatchman Angus Fraser, missed by McMillan at second slip off the last ball of the day, to see England to stumps at 17 for one. Hope, in cricket, springs eternal but things look desperate.

Both in the morning session, when Kirsten, Cullinan and Rhodes played lacklustre bowling with some comfort, and in that awful final session the crowd were witness to the scabby face of English cricket. By lunch South Africa had taken the score to 109 for three, with Cullinan past his half-century, and already the chatter way of the match having been taken out of English control.

Strong words must have been spoken during the interval, however, for afterwards

wallets were mugged. Malcolm's bowling is always a high risk, the equivalent of placing bets on a single roulette number rather than red or black. Of 31 runs added before he was removed from the attack, 18 came from his four overs, altering the initiative just as readily as a windshift can change the course of a regatta.

There was sadness in it all. Only a couple of months ago Nelson Mandela was referring to him as The Destroyer following his record nine South African wickets at The Oval. Since then, rejected and humiliated at times, he has had a miserable tour. He remains the destroyer but this time, it seems, it is of his own team's ambition.

At this point England, the millionaires with the bulging

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At this point England, the millionaires with the bulging

## US take soul responsibility to heart



Ian Katz

SOMETHING peculiar has happened in offices, bars and living rooms across the United States: people have stopped moaning about sport.

There is, of course, no shortage of whingeing about particular teams and players: about the Dallas coach Barry Switzer's inextricable decision to run the ball on a late-game fourth down against Philadelphia or the latest atrocity perpetrated by the Yankees megalomaniac owner George Steinbrenner.

But the existential angst has gone. When I arrived in the US a little over a year ago, one could not read the back pages for more than a day or two without being assailed by a diatribe about how American sport had lost its soul.

The most profound source of angst was the months-old baseball strike which had already cost a World Series and threatened to derail the entire 1995 season. How had the game of Joe DiMaggio and Babe Ruth been reduced to two groups of petulant millionaires, the nation wondered aloud.

But the country's other mainstream sports were hardly inspiring the fans either. The NBA, for a decade the success story of US professional sport, seemed dull and artless without superstars like Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird.

Fans muttered about a new generation of trash-talking players with egos to match their pay-cheques. The unlovely 1994 championship finals between the thuggish New York Knicks and the not-yet-classy Houston Rockets reeked of mediocrity.

EVEN gridiron football, notwithstanding the return to greatness of the San Francisco 49ers, offered little consolation. A familiar group of veterans continued to dominate while the AFC, vanquished in the previous Super Bowls, again failed to produce a team to challenge seriously for the prize.

How things have changed. Not only did the baseball players return to the diamonds in time to salvage an abbreviated

season but they produced a classic. Cal Ripken moved coolly past Lou Gehrig's "unbreakable" record of 2,130 consecutive games; Albert Belle became the first player to swing 50 homers and 50 doubles in a season; and new but distinctly old-fashioned stars such as Atlanta's square-jawed Chipper Jones evoked a more romantic era.

And the World Series was nothing less than poetic. It pitched the Cleveland Indians, a resurgent team, against the Atlanta Braves, the team of the Nineties.

BUT nowhere is the difference more striking than in basketball.

Before returning to the NBA had to stars was fading veterans such as Charles Barkley and Patrick Ewing and a handful of youngsters such as Shaquille O'Neal. It spoke volumes that the league's Most Valuable Player award went to David Robinson, the high-scoring but workmanlike San Antonio centre.

Now commentators salivate over the most exciting basketball scene since the 1980s: Jordan's Chicago Bulls, with their best ever starting record of 25 wins and three defeats this season, have turned the game into an exquisite ballet but no one is calling them Michael Jordan and the Jordanaires any more.

That is because alongside his Airness, Scottie Pippen has grown into a full-blown superstar while the Bulls' new acquisition, the NBA's bad boy Dennis Rodman, has demanded his share of the limelight. And the rest of the NBA seems to be sparking like a clear night-sky in Orlando the silky point-guard Anfernee "Pecky" Hardaway is drawing comparisons to Johnson and Jordan; in Detroit the silver-tongued rookie Grant Hill is playing almost as well as he talk; in Houston Hakeem Olajuwon and his Rockets still soar.

Even the football play-offs seem exciting this year. The "winning" team, as Americans like to say, are not Dallas or San Francisco but the AFC's Kansas City Chiefs. The top-rated quarter-back is not Marino or Elway but Jim Harbaugh of the improbable Indianapolis Colts, who won their first post-season game in 24 years last week-end. The Green Bay Packers, the gritty team-without-a-town, are great again.

With so much to talk about, it is hardly surprising the moaners have forgotten that American sport is dead.

### Scoreboard

ENGLAND: First innings 153 (R A Smith 56, Donald 5-49)	
SOUTH AFRICA	
First innings (overnight: 44-2)	
D J Cullinan c Russell b Martin	62
J N Rhodes c Russell b Fraser	18
B Wicketman run out	1
J H Kallis b Martin	7
D J Richardson not out	54
S M Pollock c Smith b Washington	4
A A Donald c Russell b Cork	3
P R Adams c Hick b Martin	29
Extras (NS, NB)	23
Total (for 101 overs)	244
Fall of wickets: 1-125, 2-125, 3-144, 4-163, 5-171	
Second innings	
M A Atherton c Richardson b Donald	10
A J Stewart not out	4
A R C Fraser not out	3
Extras (NS, NB)	3
Total (for 17 overs)	177
Fall of wickets: 1-16	
To bat: R A Smith, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, P R Adams, M Washington, D G Cork, P J Martin, D E Malcolm	
Bowling: Donald 4-2-9-1; Pollock 2-10-3-0	
Umpires: S G Rendell and D L Orsted	



## Maradona tells of his struggle against cocaine addiction

John Duncan

Diego Maradona has for the first time described his daily struggle with cocaine addiction, saying he was speaking out against drugs "for the kids".

"I was, I am and I always will be a drug addict," Maradona said in an interview with an Argentinian magazine. "You can't just get up and say: 'It's over.' You can't. You have to wake up and say: 'Today I'm going to fight against the hell of drugs.' Only that way can you fight and try to recover."

The 35-year-old forward said he first took cocaine when he joined Barcelona at the age of 22, four years before leading Argentina to World Cup victory in Mexico. He has since twice been found guilty of possessing or distributing cocaine and twice suspended after testing positive. "I suffered a lot because of drugs," he said. "Much more than

anyone could believe." Maradona related how he was once so wasted that he was unable to get his daughter Gianina a glass of water. "I couldn't get up. I felt like I was stuck to the mattress. And my hand shook. The cocaine had numbed me completely."

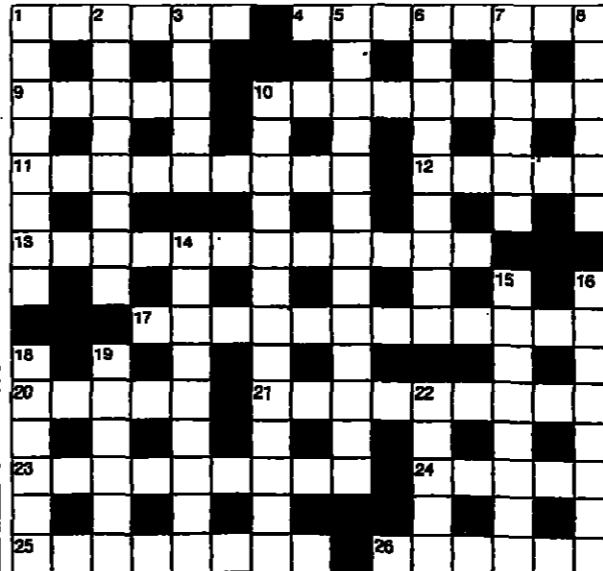
Maradona went public with his problem as the Argentinian government launched a campaign against drug use by young people called "Sun Without Drugs". He will figure prominently in it.

He said he had told his youngest daughter Dalma: "Fapi made a mistake, a big mistake. Now I want to tell young people about this, and I'm going to hurt you, but I want to try to help those kids who could go through the same thing I went through."

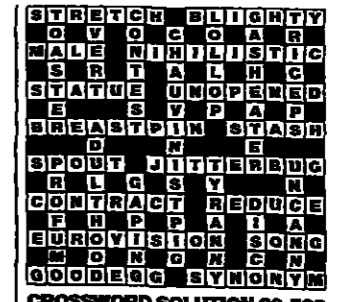
"And she told me: 'I'm with you, Papi.' I'm going to take her with me on the anti-drug campaign, but not often, because every time I tell about this she cries."

## Guardian Crossword No 20,540

Set by Araucaria



- Across**
- 1,4 Ancient patriarch in rash development by fiery chariot racer? (5,9)
  - 9 Electric company gets a big shock on the Lizard (5)
  - 10 Push-chair, a pet project with an infestation (4,6)
  - 11 Woodwork at the fish gate (9)
  - 12 A month in Spain is a nuisance (5)
  - 13 Talk books? (5,7)
  - 17 Consequences, etc., of Prague morals? (7,5)
  - 20 Beast expressed satisfaction about craving (5)
  - 21 Schism from church during working period? (9)
  - 23 American writer backed in to knock down our leaders (3,6)
- Down**
- 24 Author of "Reflections of a Governess"? (5)
  - 25 Under 50% being under 18 (8)
  - 26 Big gun at billiards (5)
- Down**
- 1 Called once about firms at great expense (4,4)
  - 2 One who makes notes with pipe (8)
  - 3 Free love comes in to be parted from (5)
  - 5 English colony confused with suburb? That's all right then (3,1,4,5)
  - 6 Composer of "The Martyred Mountain" (5,4)
  - 7 Adriatic merchantman strikes a hopeful note inside (5)
  - 8 Saw the negative principle in loss of tension (5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,539

- 10 Hell of a clue for Pili (10,3)
- 14 Morsupial, a stunner, in the fashion of a carnivore (5,4)
- 15 Part I in a short day has "a grievous fault" (8)
- 16 A boy to call up male voice choir in usenet? (2,3,3)
- 18 Non-vocal beast? (5)
- 19 Dredge the River Swan? (8)
- 22 Fishy drawing of 10 down in water (5)

**Solution tomorrow**

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**I'm inclined to think that Seven contains more style than content, and suffers from that other deadly sin of self-consciousness.**

Derek Malcom

**G2 page 9**

مكتبة الامم المتحدة